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We got screwed

Major benefit cuts to student health insurance plan despite small cost increase

Melanie Tromp

Students will pay more for health expenses this year thanks to significant cuts to the UVic Students' Society's (UVSS) already-meagre health plan.

The cuts came into effect Sept. 1, despite a $3 increase in fees. Paramedical services — with the exception of clinical psychology — were scaled back by half to a maximum benefit of $250 per service per year. Paramedical services include physiotherapy, podiatry, chiropractics, naturopathy, acupuncture, massage, and speech and athletic therapy.

UVSS support services manager Judy Guthrie attributed the cuts to a higher-than-expected number of claims last year, especially for chiropractic and massage services. She said the price of the plan would have increased by $30 per student if a deal had not been struck with Green *Shield,* the health insurance company, during renegotiations in May.

But paying $3 more and receiving significantly less benefits is unusual for a well-established health plan, said Graham Senft, the program director for StudentCare, a competing health insurance provider. His company has roughly 350,000 Canadian students signed on, including the other three major B.C. universities — UBC, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern B.C.

"Normally you would see big changes like this occurring in the first few years of a plan," said Senft. "By this time, the plan should be stable and the premiums should match the benefits. This discrepancy may suggest that someone is asleep at the switch."

Specific coverage details with any provider are settled at the local level, though the UVSS is part of a collective National Student Health Network (NSHN) via its membership with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"The reason a student society works with the NSHN is that you hope that there will be better prices negotiated due to the number of student societies involved in the network," said Guthrie. "You hope for health coverage that is specific to the student population."

The NSHN acts as a pseudo-broker between the CFS and Green Shield, claiming that the latter is the "only non-profit" provider in Canada. However, Pacific Blue Cross and The Cooperators are also Canadian-based non-profit insurance suppliers.

Unfortunately, the NSHN and Green Shield offer paltry coverage for high costs in comparison with other brokers. UVic undergrads are covered for a maximum of $500 of dental work per year but are only covered for $25 in optical exams every two years. Prescription eyewear isn't available in the UVSS arrangement, but 80 per cent of prescription drug purchases are covered, minus a $3 deductible for every fill. This drug deal does not cover treatment for obesity — yet another anomaly in the realm of student health plans.

Travel insurance is still not available to members of the UVSS, although the Graduate Students' Society (GSS) added this benefit to their plan this year. In fact, the GSS negotiated a NSHN-free deal with Green Shield this year and wound up with a much sweeter package despite the grad population costing health plans more in claims than their undergraduate counterparts.

The UVSS plan is laced with inconveniences to deter claims, including requiring a written referral by a physician for most paramedical services, perpetual drug-filling fees and bizarre stipulations including the note that chiropractic and podiatry services are not eligible "until your Provincial Health Insurance Plan annual maximum has been exhausted." The British Columbia Medical Services Plan ceased subsidies for these services in 2003, which implies that this plan hasn't been seriously re-evaluated for at least the last four years.

Green Shield does boast of a one-of-a-kind "vision network" arrangement with Zellers and the Bay for discounts on eyewear. But according to the company's website, no Bay or Zellers on Vancouver Island has an optical centre — the closest one to campus is the Bay in Langley's Willowbrook Shopping Centre. StudentCare maintains a network of thousands of dentists and paramedical practitioners that offer student discounts in addition to their benefits. The broker would establish a Vancouver Island network if UVic jumped on board.

Buried deep on Green Shield's website were the names of four allegedly UVSS-friendly dentists in the region that make up the provider's dental network for Greater Victoria. Three of the four dentists named did not know of any arrangement they had

See CFS, p. 2

HEALTH PLANS COMPARED

	UBC	UVic
Cost per year:	$210.07	$258.00
Deductible:	$10.00/year	$10.00/year
Paramedicals:	$30 per visit, $400 per year, per service plus discounts of 20% each visit if using networks	80% coverage up to $250 per year, per service, excluding chiropractic and podiatry services until BC maximum reached
Vision:	$50 per eye exam, every 2 years + discounts if using vision network	$25 per eye exam, every two years
Eyewear:	$75 every two years plus 30% discount if using network	Discounts at the Bay and Zellers optical centres
Laser Eye Surgery:	$150 per year, doubled if using national partner	None
Travel Insurance:	$5,000,000 per incident per 120 day trip plus trip cancellation/ interruption benefits	None

Business students open online suit shop

Steve Carey

Two UVic students have started a successful web business in China.

Kyle Vucko, a fourth-year student and former president of the Commerce Students Society, left UVic last year to become full-time CEO of Indochino, a web retailer that sells affordable made-to-order custom-tailored suits, shirts and jackets.

Starting with the resources in the UVic business program, Indochino recruited mentors, investors and set up a business in China that can ship a tailor-made suit to your door in less than two weeks for under $400. Before their official launch this month, Indochino sold about 50 suits and shirts, all through word of mouth.

Vucko's partner is political science student and fashion buff Heikal Gani. Gani came up with the idea and now supervises production in China while Vucko administers the website, operations and development, and customer relations from Victoria.

Indochino operates using a fast-fashion model, where only part of the product line is set when the fashion season starts. This way, they can manufacture to trends popularized by stores like Zara and H&M.

"We're trying to hit the trendy youth — the young professional — people that are really into fashion. Because we follow a fast-fashion model, we don't have inventory," said Vucko.

In the standard fashion house model, 80 per cent of a line is set before the season starts. With Zara's model, 50 per cent of a line is set, allowing them leeway for getting new products to market. Since Indochino builds everything from scratch, it has no set product line. They can design a new style and have it ready for sale in less than two weeks.

"We're all about taking the highest-level trends — Hugo Boss, Armani, all the big names that are $1,000-plus a suit, and we're able to produce something that's very similar. But we're able to deliver it quickly and at a professional price," said Vucko.

Part of the company's success can be attributed to the mentorship program offered by UVic's business faculty.

"All of this came out of the mentor program — I got really involved with it here at UVic," said Vucko. "I've probably had close to 20 mentors over the last six months, all entrepreneurs, all with good advice."

Vucko said his mentors have helped him overcome problems with shipping, international tariffs and the consumer fear of buying online.

"Our mentors are able to tell us, 'We did this and we went wrong here, so don't do the same thing' or 'You guys are doing an operation in China. I know someone in my network who can help you.' One of the best things we did was get [our mentors] on board."

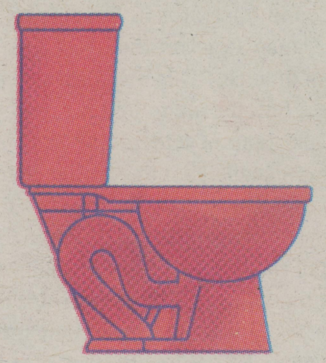
One of the company's biggest hurdles is to convince people that low price doesn't mean low quality.

"All the suits we've sold in the last month, the vast majority of them have been referrals. People see the product and they say, 'This online suit thing works,'" said Vucko. To encourage this, Indochino offers 10 per cent off for a referral and also has a deal for UVic students using a promo code.

Roger Mehr, 22, ordered a suit and a shirt during the Indochino test phase a month ago. At six feet and 200

See Outsourcing to China, p. 2

STORIES



What Victoria is doing with its sewage
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UVic's toughest (and easiest) courses
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Staffer quit over frustrations with admin
NEWS, P. 12

What went down at the Fringe Fest
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Vikes takes on top U.S. talent
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COLUMNS

The Happy Heretic
OPINIONS, P. 15

War of Words
OPINIONS, P. 15

Drinking with Derek
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PLUS

Sudoku and the Martlet Crossword
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CFS put health plan 'on autopilot'

Continued from p. 1

with Green Shield when contacted by the Martlet, and the other dentist gave discounts only to those students with financial need.

"The advantage to using the [NSHN's] plan is the benefit of administrative help from the CFS' health plan administrator in Vancouver," said Jamie Strachan, the UVSS director of finance. "This help provides a direct link for me to better answer the questions of students."

This so-called administrative help was the deal breaker for the six student societies that left the NSHN within the last year. Senft explained that the Vancouver administrator is the CFS' only employee administering every NSHN health plan in the country. The CFS "doesn't have the resources to provide support and administrate the program," Senft said.

Senft also noted that UVic's lack of a separate health plan office — or even a kiosk — is "a little bit surprising for a school this size." The health plan is the most complex service that the UVSS offers, affecting every student on campus (who, at the very least, have to opt out), yet the 2007 benefit booklets had yet to arrive at UVic as of Sept. 3 and all health plan questions are filtered through the UVSS Info Booth.

StudentCare would train staff and set up a free-standing kiosk for at least the first few weeks of the semester. Moreover, they provide their own in-house call centre with province-specific student agents to answer questions. Frustrated UVSS members are simply referred to the generic Green Shield hotline when they have a question.

When it does arrive, the UVSS' Outline of Benefits brochure will likely be riddled with the same legalese and unclear explanations for benefit claims found in the 2006 edition. StudentCare, on the other hand, won an award from the Society for Technical Communications for its successful communications campaign, including targeted pieces for the international student population.

UBC students will pay $210 for their health plan this year, which includes comprehensive travel and optical coverage as well as access to StudentCare's discount network, while UVic undergraduates will pay $258 for significantly less.

"It's almost like the CFS put the plan in place, established the benefits and then put the service on autopilot for the year," said Senft. "What is the most important issue? Is the first criteria that you provide the absolute best student services for the best price? Or is it to satisfy the political ideology of the CFS?

"If UVic picks the ideology, that's fine, but the UVSS just needs to make sure it's truly listening to what the students it represents want."

Representatives from both the CFS and Green Shield failed to return numerous phone calls from the Martlet.

Earlier this summer, UVSS director of services Erica Virtue made contact with Senft to discuss signing on to StudentCare's brokering services for the UVSS. Senft was never able to make an official proposal to the UVSS because Virtue was unable to obtain the necessary claims data from Strachan after three separate attempts to access the tardy claims sheets that Green Shield should have already provided for Strachan's office.

"Green Shield claims sheets contain confidential information, and it is very worrying that any director would try to negotiate with a different health plan provider using confidential information," said Strachan in an e-mail to the Martlet, noting that information sharing could jeopardize the UVSS' relationship with its current insurance provider.

"I did make an offer to discuss these issues [with] the finance committee but Erica did not reply or take me up on the offer," said Strachan.

Outsourcing to China keeps costs low, quality high

Continued from p. 1

pounds, he self describes as "husky" and with "a big neck." Mehr and his friend, Mike Tan, both ordered suits and received them a little over a week later. Mehr unfolded his suit from the Indochino bag, and wore it as it was.

"It looks really good," said Mehr. "People see my suit and ask where I got it — they're even more interested after I tell them the price."

He had bought two other suits before from Moores and said he wound up paying $200 to $300 more than the Indochino price for anything trendy, and it still wasn't tailored.

Eric Jordan, executive-in-residence at UVic and former CEO of PureEdge Solutions, a Victoria-based software company that grew to over 60 employees and sold to IBM in 2005, was one of Vucko's first mentors. As the executive-in-residence, Jordan tries to help students with business ideas go from classes to "the stuff that really gets their hands dirty." In addition to investing in Indochino, Jordan introduced Vucko to Hannes Blum, CEO of Abebooks.com, an online service that links book sellers and buyers world-wide.

Blum believed in Indochino and became an angel investor, helping the company with seed money and recruiting other investors, including Abebooks.com CFO John Chase.

Jordan said many people want to hear how great their idea is, but never want to act on it. He saw Vucko as a doer rather than a talker, and that's what brought him on board.

"At a first-stage investment like [Indochino], it's more about investing in the person, rather than an idea, because the idea evolves and morphs and changes," said Jordan. "Kyle was really good at heading input and making change."

Indochino works with tailors within the Shanghai community, most of whom work out of their homes. Vucko said that to attract tailors, Indochino pays more than the going rate, and many prefer it to a factory job.

The company consults their tailors on new designs and works with Chinese fabric suppliers. The company that prints their bags and promotional materials found them a website photographer, and they rent office space from their Shanghai courier.

"Business in China is all about long-term relationships. It's a great place to do business because the idea is, 'If you make money, we all make money.'"

The business has changed Vucko's perspectives. "There are possibilities everywhere. You can go anywhere, you can do anything. If you want to do something, you can just do it, and figure it out along the way."

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Brought to you by the UVic Students' Society

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
WHEN? September 5th 8am-10:30am
WHAT? There's no better way to start your first day of classes!
WHERE? Outside of the SUB

CORNIVAL
WHEN? September 7th 12pm-5pm
WHAT? Back by popular demand – Bungee Run, Bands: *Meat Draw, Italian Edition, Arbutus Trio* Refreshments … FREE CORN!
WHERE? Outside of the SUB

SLEEPING BAG DRIVE-IN
WHEN? September 10th Show starts at 9pm
WHAT? Free screening of ***Raiders of the Lost Ark*** under the stars. Bring a donation for the Food Bank and get FREE POPCORN!
WHERE? Quad behind Petch Fountain

CLUBS & COURSE UNION DAYS
WHEN? September 12th – 14th
WHAT? Come check out the hundreds of Clubs and Course Unions and join the ones that interest you!
WHERE? Michele Pujol Room in the SUB

CLASH OF THE CLUBS POLITICAL DEBATE
WHEN? September 13th 2pm at Cinecenta
WHAT? Come watch the UVSS political clubs battle it out on issues that affect you!
WHERE? Cinecenta inside the SUB

FREE COFFEE MORNING
WHEN? September 19th 8am-10:30am
WHAT? Start your day with a free cuppa' joe and meet the UVSS Board of Directors – your elected student representatives!
WHERE? Petch Fountain

sign up for UVic Idol 2007 at these UVSS Events!!

UVSS

www.uvss.uvic.ca

Stopping stolen metals

Steve Carey

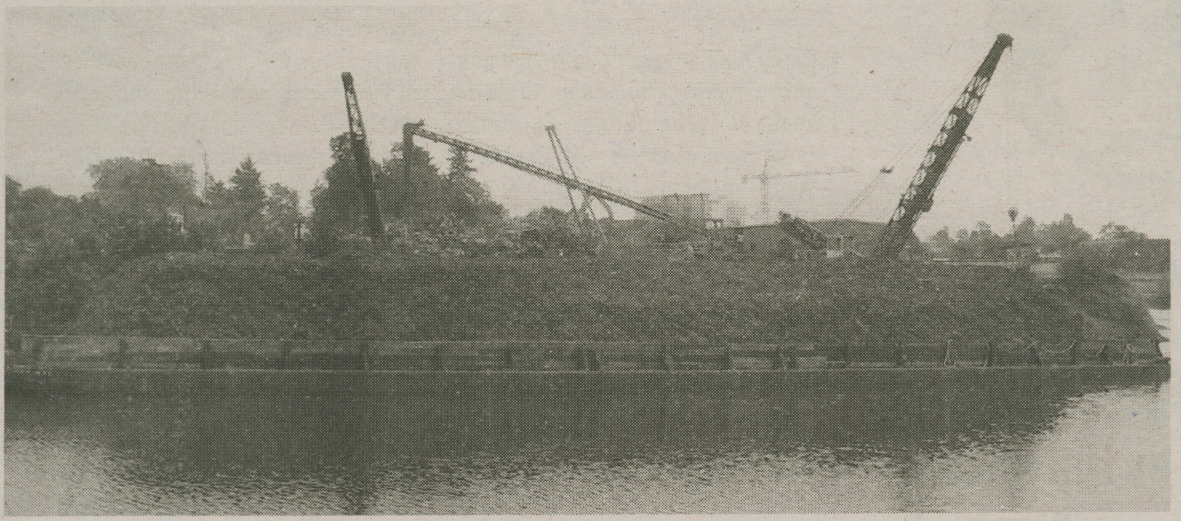

PHOTO COURETSY OF SELKIRK RECYCLING

A Selkirk Recycling barge carries scrap metal. Media have been misreporting the value of stolen scrap metal.

When you buy something at a garage sale, how do you know if it's stolen?

You don't. That's the problem Victoria's scrap metal yards face daily.

The historic clock outside Francis Jewellers at 617 Broughton Street was stripped for its workings on Aug. 7. The Times Colonist reported that the clock fell "victim to the drug trade's insatiable appetite for cash at any cost" and that the clock parts were most likely sold for scrap.

Spokespeople for two large Victoria scrap yards pointed out that the clock parts consisted of a 22-kilogram lead weight and a 12-kilogram aluminum ball that together would fetch about $18 at a scrap yard.

"How could it possibly be worth anything for the amount of work that these guys would have to do to do that? They've got to be incredibly stupid or there's something else going on," said Reid Hudson, marketing manager of Selkirk Recycling, one of the two large scrap yards in downtown Victoria. "It could be just pure vandalism, or maybe these guys wanted to use the hanger for a fishing weight or something. It could have nothing to do with scrap."

There are no bylaws governing the purchase of scrap in Victoria. Unlike a pawn shop that has an item on its shelves for days and the benefit of serial numbers for tracking, scrap is bought and then sorted, shredded and put on a barge for transport. Selkirk fills a 4,000 metric tonne barge every two to three days.

Theft of copper and brass is on the rise in Victoria. Scrap dealers and police believe it's because of coverage from the media and unsecured construction projects such as home renovations and condo developments.

"It's very difficult to prove what's stolen and what's not. So there's this onus on scrap metal dealers to try to figure it out," said Hudson.

Hudson is quick to point out that scrap metal dealers don't survive off buying stolen copper and brass, which they purchase for $1 to $2 dollars per pound. Over 90 per cent of Selkirk's revenue comes from ferrous metals, which contain iron and are more common and therefore less expensive than copper and brass.

"Does stolen material come through here? Yes, I'd say it does, because we've turned people in," said Hudson, who receives calls from owners who notice their metal is missing. A spokesperson from Ellice Recycling, the other large scrap yard in town, said they have caught people coming in with stolen goods. The spokesperson would not give their name as it is against company policy.

Both Hudson and the Ellice spokesperson said it's hard to identify stolen goods if they haven't heard of the theft. Scrap is often cut into pieces so small they're unrecognizable.

"Unless someone reports something stolen, we can't really do anything," said Hudson. "The first thing you do is report it stolen to the police and the second thing you do is phone up all the scrap dealers in your area and let them know — try and give them a description.

"If you've got a picture, send a picture. That way, if it shows up in the local area, [scrap dealers] have a good idea of what it looks like and the kind of quantity it is."

People have been electrocuted trying to steal copper wire from buildings in the past and brass gravestone markers have been ripped-off for sale as scrap. Ellice Recycling's spokesperson said they caught a man trying to sell a bucket of stolen gas valves. Ellice discovered a scrapped radiator was stolen when the rightful owner called and identified it.

Although Ellice and Selkirk try to stay in touch with police, merchants and other scrap dealers when suspicious property comes in, Hudson believes that Victoria needs a better system for informing scrap dealers about stolen goods.

"We've suggested that [the Victoria police] have an online database of things that are reported stolen. So even if someone doesn't call the scrap dealers, then if someone comes in here and the [materials] don't look right, we can check it out online."

But the Victoria Police Department doesn't think it's necessary at the moment. "We currently don't have a fan-out system to any of the salvage yards to say, 'This has been stolen,'" said Sgt. Grant Hamilton, media spokesperson for the Victoria Police Department.

"Ideally they would obtain proper identification before they take in any salvage items. That way, if someone is bringing in some property that is the subject of a criminal offence … we would be able to track the person down, which would give us the starting point in the investigation."

Ellice only buys scrap from people with ID, while Selkirk will buy from anyone. Hudson says that's because Selkirk doesn't want to discriminate against binners, who collect scrap and often don't have ID.

Both dealers and police expect some municipal bylaws governing scrap to be set in the future.

"It's going to take some co-operation between salvage yards and our department," said Hamilton. "I think what a lot of companies and businesses are doing now is they're trying to lock up their sites and materials, or have surveillance cameras, and better harden themselves against this kind of stuff."

CORRECTIONS

The Martlet erroneously reported Aug. 17 that Marie-Helen Westgate's play at the Victoria Fringe Festival was titled The Shy Sensationalist. In fact, the play was titled The Shy Situationist.

The Martlet erroneously reported Aug. 17 that a motion presented at the July 25 UVic Students' Society (UVSS) board of directors meeting would allocate student club funding based on number of members. In fact, the motion would have allowed the UVSS director of services to determine club funding, in consultation with Clubs Council and the UVic Athletics and Recreation sports clubs programmer.

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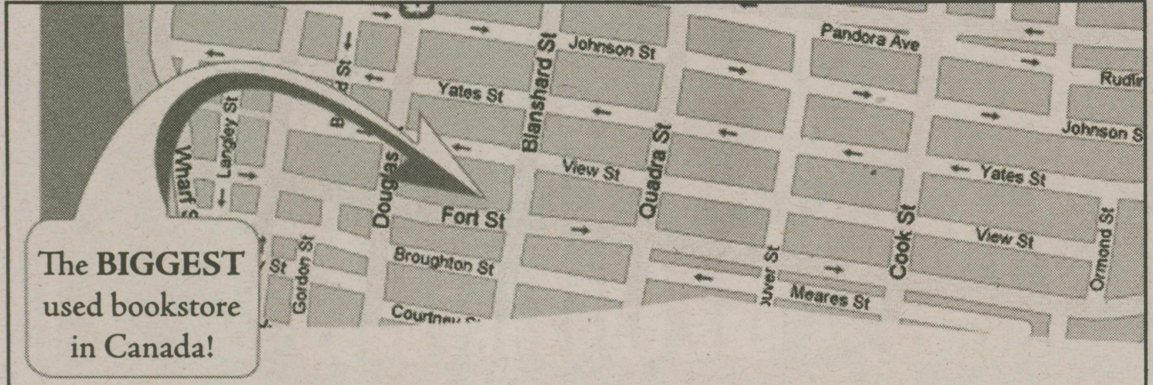

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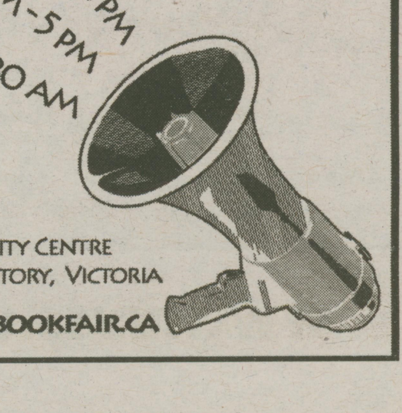

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Social work student talks sex

Dania Kochan travelled the country with Canadian Youth for Choice

Gemma Karstens-Smith

Dania Kochan spent part of her summer traveling Canada and talking about sex. The unique experience came from working with Canadian Youth for Choice's (CYC) Know Your Rights tour.

"It's important for everyone to know what their rights are," says Kochan, a third-year social work student at UVic. "I don't think this is something that is as public as it should be."

The tour, funded by the International Planned Parenthood Federation's innovation fund, aimed to educate youth on S.H.I.T. — Sexual Health Information Today.

The CYC set up a tent at summer events across Canada, including Warped Tour and Wakestock. It provided a place for youth to stop by and ask questions, chat, take free condoms and lube, and participate in condom-rolling contests.

Besides learning about sexual health, visitors to the tent were encouraged to support their sexual rights at a national level by endorsing the CYC's charter for the sexual and reproductive rights of youth. During the tour, CYC met with members of Parliament across the country to discuss the charter, which includes rights concerned with education, choice, health and safety.

"I was amazed at how many people had incorrect and slanted information from their school or even peers and parents," says Kochan of her two weeks with the tour. "Some people didn't even know what the birth control pill looked like."

However, she found that the public was generally supportive of CYC and its initiatives, responding with positive feedback in every city.

Kochan's desire to get involved with CYC came from her lack of sex ed. "My parents held me back from health class because they didn't want me to learn anything sexual," she said. "When I was 12 and had my period, I didn't even know what it was. I thought there was something wrong with me."

Today, Kochan still sees misinformation and inconsistency of info as the biggest problems facing youth in regards to sex and sexuality. She has met youth who have been taught that abstinence is the only way or that you can't get sexually transmitted infections from oral sex.

"The reality is that youth are going to do what they're going to do, and in most cases, not much can stop them," says Kochan. "We need to provide them with the correct information and give them safe options if they chose to make those choices."

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIA KOCHAN

Left to right: Julie Elizabeth Dagenais, Dania Kochan, Darnell Johnson, Meghan Bailey and Lisa Middleton.

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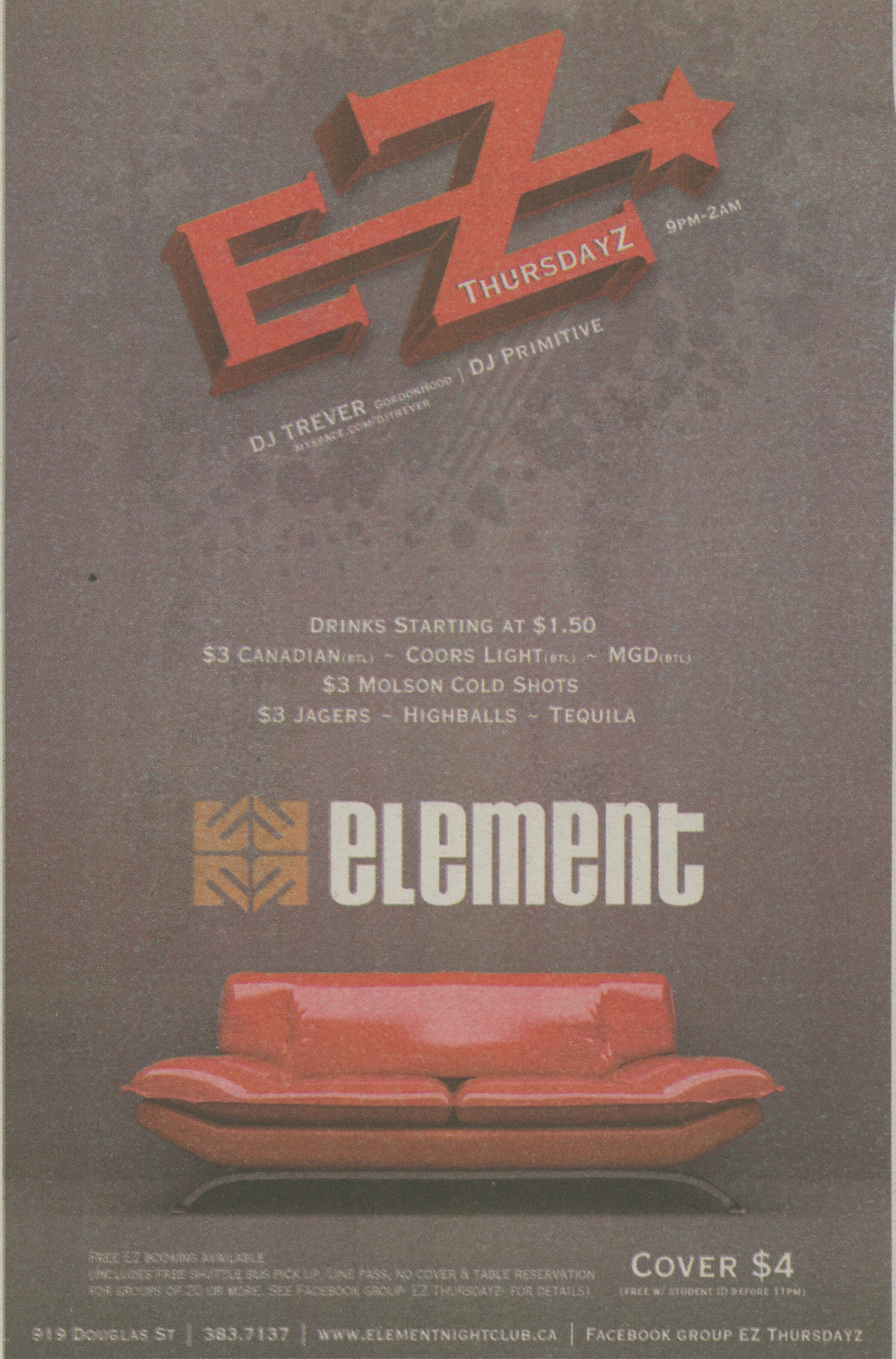

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Seven, 11 get service increases

Matthew Gauk

Two in-demand bus routes in and out of campus have received a significant bump in service from BC Transit.

Route seven, which runs between downtown Victoria and UVic via the Gonzales area, will see an increase in the number of weekday bus runs from 99 to 107 — 54 trips to UVic and 53 trips leaving UVic. Route 11 from Tillicum Mall to UVic via downtown has increased from 118 runs per day to 127. Those increases are targeted to the heaviest demand times, which for UVic are between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. and between 3 and 7 p.m.

"The seven had a particularly interesting challenge on that corridor. You've got other schools, the K-12 stuff, including Oak Bay High and middle schools, and Camosun [College] and UVic, and the success of that route for all those markets has been quite dramatic," said Ron Drolet, BC Transit's senior vice-president of customer service.

Minor service bumps are scheduled for all other campus routes as well. But BC Transit is focusing on other areas.

"The big move is to try and make a dent in the traffic between the West Shore area and downtown," said Drolet.

To that end, the new improvements include a 60 per cent increase in service on the number 50 which runs between downtown and Langford, with five-minute frequency and fewer stops in peak hours, 10-minute service during the middle of the day and 15-minute service during evenings and weekends.

The routing has been changed for the number 52, which runs throughout Langford, and its frequency has been doubled.

These changes, which Drolet said equal an eight per cent increase in transit service overall, are in addition to the service upswing the transit system sees in going back to their fall schedule.

But there are downsides to increased service. "The other dimension people will notice is there seems to be a lot more older equipment on the road next week, and that's true," said Drolet.

The Victoria Regional Transit System, the local authority for BC Transit, has purchased 10 new low-floor Nova buses to add to its fleet and four new mini community buses. These are scheduled to arrive in October and to be in service by November, but rather than wait until then to implement the new service schedule, the Victoria Regional Transit System purchased 15 older, high-floor buses to tide themselves over.

"We apologize for the older look," said Drolet. "But the new equipment will be on the roads as soon as it arrives."

The new Nova buses will be accessible to people with a disability, as well as an estimated 15 per cent more fuel efficient than the old vehicles. They're also air-conditioned. The Novas will be dispersed throughout different routes, so UVic students can expect to be sitting in them soon.

Funding for the service increase comes from three sources — the federal government, the provincial government and the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, which is made up of local mayors and councilors.

Buses arrive and depart out of the UVic exchange area in front of the bookstore more than 500 times per day on seven different routes.

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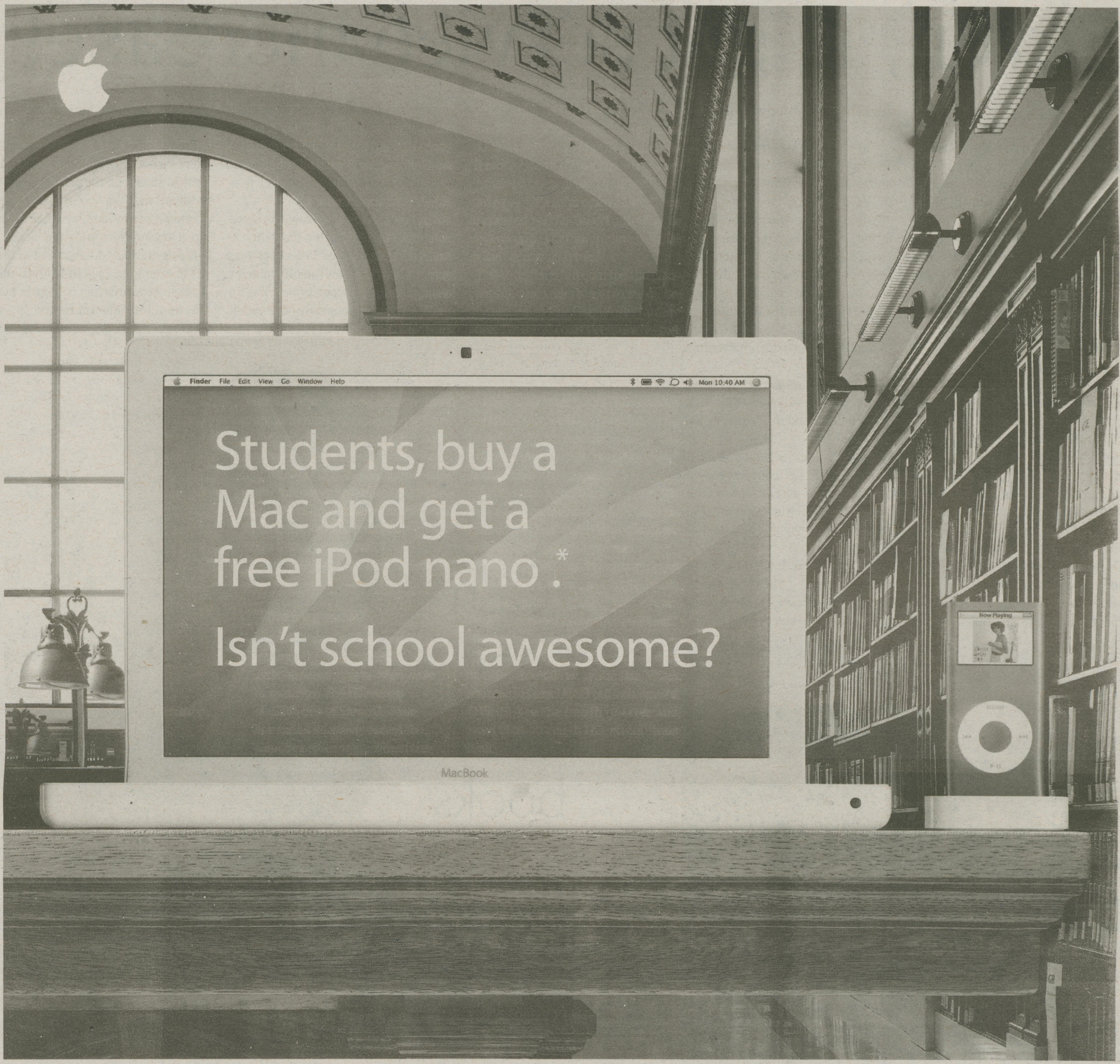
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Student services director takes lengthy leave

Erica Virtue says her political opponents are trying to force her to resign her elected post with the UVSS

ELLEN ROONEY PHOTO

Erica Virtue says "work-related harassment" has forced her to take sick leave.

David Karp and Melanie Tromp

September is supposed to be the busy time of year for the student union's director of services, but she's not at work this month — or the next two — due to a work-related medical leave of absence.

UVic Students' Society (UVSS) director of services Erica Virtue has been on sick leave for most of August. At an Aug. 29 board of directors meeting, director-at-large Corinne Harbidge circulated a doctor's note indicating Virtue would not return until late November at the earliest "due to medical reasons."

The director of services is responsible for administering student club funding and co-ordinating orientation programs and community events, which make for a busy schedule during the first few months of the fall semester.

Virtue would not explicitly say what the reason for her leave is. "I just don't want information about my health all over the Internet," she said. But Virtue did admit, "It's directly work-related."

"That's a pretty big issue when work-related harassment gets so bad that I've been mandated by [a medical doctor] to go on leave," Virtue said. "The issue is that I'm not able to work in that environment."

When asked if she could return to work three months from now, Virtue responded, "I think the environment has to change.

"I have certainly considered resigning [and] I believe that it is the intention of the UVSS executive to force me to resign," said Virtue in an e-mail. "However, I would still like to see [that] these problems are resolved, so that other students are not subjected to similar abuse."

Virtue stormed out of a July 25 board meeting after a motion she moved was defeated. "[Board members] are caught up in their petty arguments," Virtue told the Martlet outside that meeting. "It's more of an issue that they don't like me and they don't care about clubs or students."

Virtue said she intends to take classes while on medical leave. She also asked chairperson Tracy Ho if she could access her work e-mail from home, but Ho said that wouldn't be an option.

"I am aware that you have requested to check the Director of Services' e-mail from home, but to ensure the continuity of work and to avoid miscommunication with the Board, clubs and students, the Director of Services e-mail will be checked by whoever is assigned to do the work of the Director of Services while you are absent," Ho wrote in an e-mail to Virtue.

Virtue's absence has created a major headache for her coworkers. Her duties have thus far been separated between other executives and directors-at-large Christine Comrie and Corinne Harbidge, according to director of academics Caitlin Meggs.

Virtue has been receiving a paycheque since she left, but the board voted on Sept. 4 to make the leave of absence unpaid. The board of directors tied on the vote. As chairperson, Ho broke the deadlock by voting to stop paying Virtue.

The board also nominated director-at-large Christine Comrie to take over the duties of director of services until Virtue returns. Comrie will be paid the same as other executives for a maximum of 37.5 hours a week.

Virtue and her colleagues aren't talking.

"At this point, we're trying to respect that she doesn't want to communicate, and whenever she does we're open to that," said Meggs.

But Virtue blamed her colleagues for the communication breakdown. "They haven't tried to resolve the situation at all. They haven't brought in anyone to mediate the situation."

Both Virtue and Meggs told the Martlet they'd consider mediation.

"It's hard the way student politics are set up," said Meggs. "It doesn't need to be adversarial once we're all on the board. It should just be like, 'We should work together for the betterment of students.'"

- with files from Matthew Gauk

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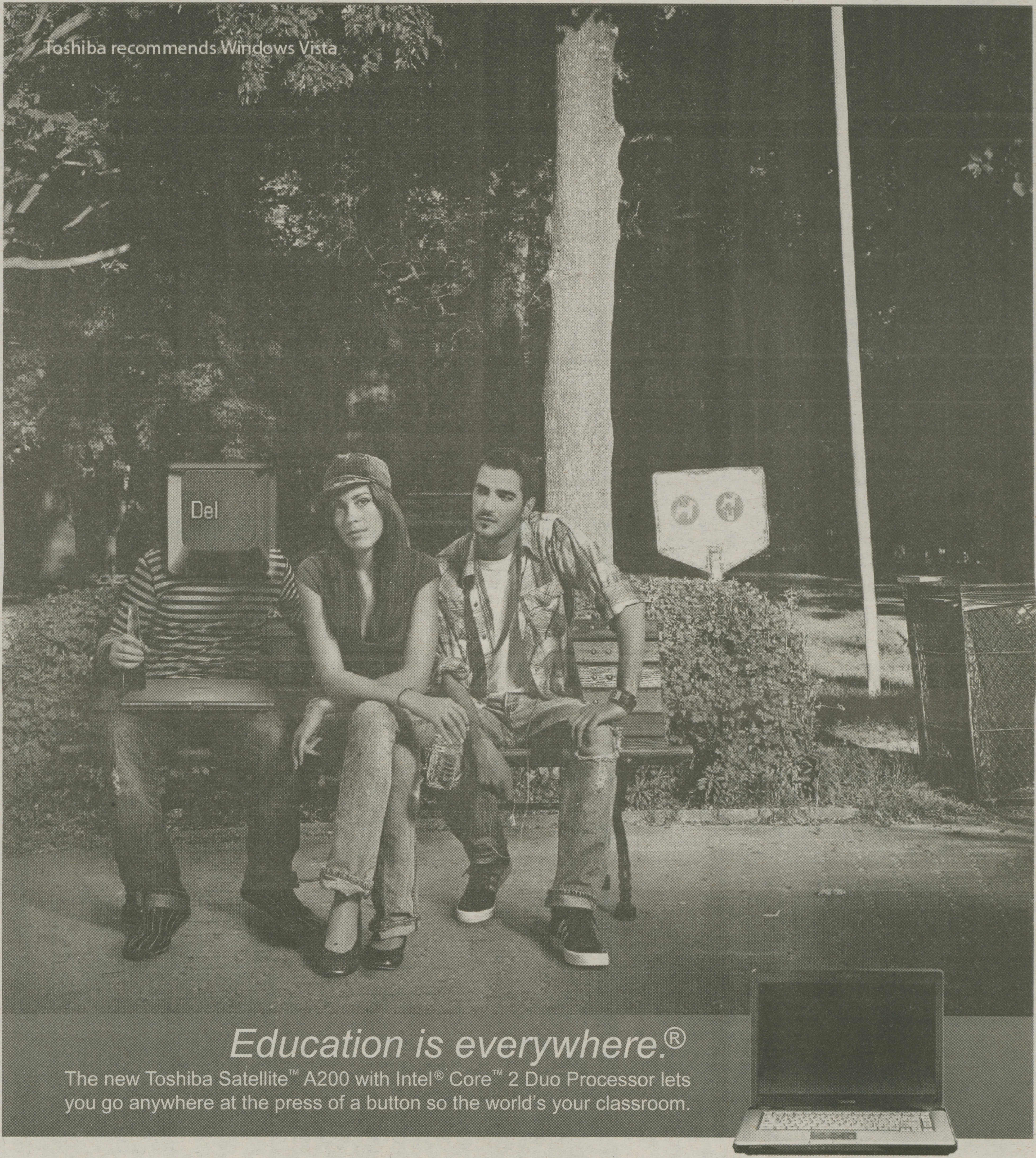
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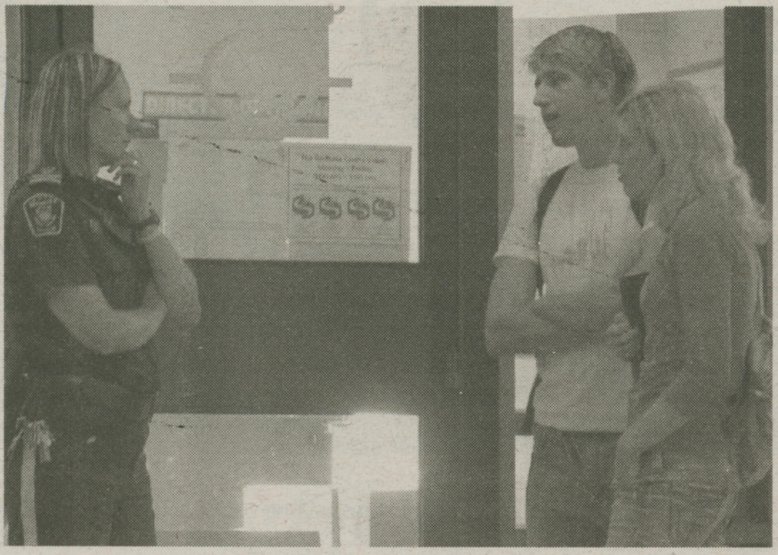
Student banned from Resource Centre

Controversy started when committee member objected to shredding of special events calendars

Melanie Tromp and David Karp



ELLEN ROONEY PHOTO

Arel English and Erica Virtue talk to a Campus Security officer outside the Resource Centre. English is not allowed to enter the Resource Centre.

UVic student *Arel English* was intercepted twice by Campus Security in less than 24 hours for allegedly disturbing the peace and intimidating members of the UVic Students' Society executive (UVSS).

Saanich police were called both times but arrived after English had left the scene.

English has since been banned from entering the Resource Centre in the Student Union Building (SUB). Dale Robertson, SUB business operations manager, made the decision to call Campus Security.

"There were several members of the [UVSS] executive that feel very uncomfortable with him being around ... [they] were scared to go to work and to have their doors open," said Robertson.

The trouble started at an Aug. 22 meeting of the UVSS special events committee, of which English is a member, that was chaired by director of academics Caitlin Meggs. English, who ran for the director of finance position in March, attended the meeting with the intention of discussing a special events calendar that had recently been recalled.

"A calendar of special events, which had already been printed, needed to be recalled because the university took issue with listing Capture the Flag, the Undie Run and an all-ages concert on the calendar," Meggs explained.

The calendar was produced through a partnership between the UVSS and the Student Transition Centre (STC), and was co-edited by director of services Erica Virtue and George Robinson of the STC's New Student Orientation program.

Robinson ran for UVSS chairperson in March with ACT Now, the same slate Virtue and English ran for. English and Virtue currently live together.

"They called Campus Security after I said that Marne Jensen [the UVSS general manager] made up a bunch of reasons why they needed to shred the old calendars," English said. "What have I done wrong? I told them [reprinting the calendars] was wrong and they shouldn't have done it. They're now using their position of power to harass me and Erica."

Meggs said that English never swore in the meeting, but was preventing others from speaking and accused people of lying. English says he was simply being critical.

"[English] became very upset, irate and aggressive ... very loud," said Meggs. "I asked him to calm down, and we'll have a good discussion about it, and that sort of added fuel to the fire rather than helping things.

"I said, 'I don't want to have to ask you to leave, but if we can't have a conversation or a debate you'll have to leave.'"

According to Meggs, Robertson asked English to leave the special events committee meeting twice. When English refused, Robertson asked a building attendant to call Campus Security.

The meeting continued after English left, but Campus Security was again called to the SUB the next morning when English showed up at the Resource Centre.

"[The meeting] was a really intimidating experience for me personally, and for a lot of other people in the office, so basically Arel is not welcome in the Resource Centre anymore," Meggs said. "We've asked him not to come. Anywhere else in the Student Union Building is fine, but this is my place where I have to work every day and I shouldn't have to feel intimidated."

English said Robertson e-mailed him on Aug. 23, just before he was removed from the Resource Centre, informing English he was banned. "Dale said that I was banned from the special events committee. But you can't do that. That's ridiculous."

Pete Zacour, director of Campus Security, said it wasn't his organization's intention to take sides.

"Our people were basically there to keep the peace and to adhere to the person who was responsible for booking the room — their request to have allegedly [disruptive] people removed from the room," said Zacour. "It appears you're taking sides in things sometimes, which wasn't the intention."

English, however, said his removal was unfair. "You can't go around just removing people because somebody has a grudge against them," he said. "You just can't do that.

"A police officer can't remove you from somewhere unless he's arresting you. And you can't be arrested unless you've broken the law. And I didn't do anything wrong," English said.

"They're using Campus Security as a tool to get at Erica and to get at me."

Following the second incident, Virtue sought legal counsel from associate vice-president of legal affairs Mary Anne Waldron regarding Campus Security's authority to remove English from the SUB.

"I am not aware of any policies that directly target the SUB and I am certainly not aware of any rights the University has or any processes under which it would be able to ban students from UVSS activities," said Waldron in an e-mail response that Virtue forwarded to the Martlet.

"There's been several different bans from different areas of the building," said Robertson. "I don't know the policy book, but the precedent is there."

In March, Campus Security and Saanich police were called when English told electoral officer Lindsay Bourque to "fuck off" during UVSS ballot counting, though English was permitted to stay on the premises that time.

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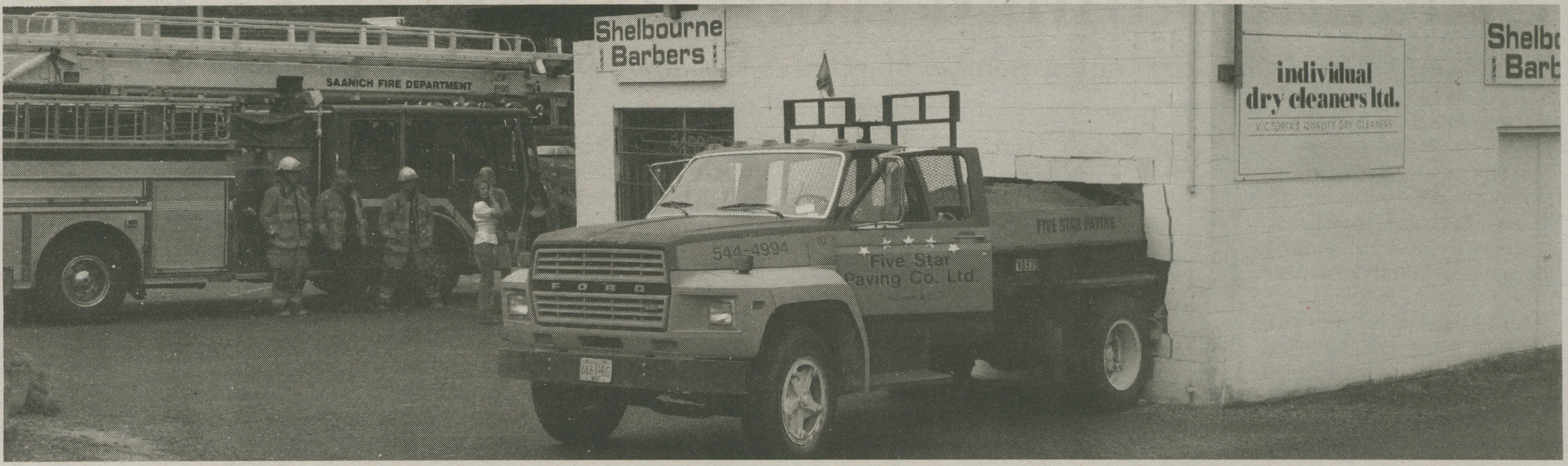

DANIEL MITCHELL PHOTO

This truck rolled back into a barbershop near Shelbourne Street and Cedar Hill Cross Road while the driver was purchasing coffee at Tim Horton's on Aug. 20.

Former prof calls for election system overhaul

Gemma Karstens-Smith

The UVic Students' Society (UVSS) has been hit with 23 recommendations on how to improve its flawed electoral system.

A report reviewing the 2006 and 2007 UVSS elections, as well as UVSS electoral policies and procedures in general, was completed July 31 and discussed at an Aug. 29 board of directors meeting. Written by Sandra McCallum, a retired UVic law professor, the report explores the complaints from the elections and their resolutions and makes recommendations.

Several of the recommendations concern the electoral committee (EC) and the chief electoral officer (CEO). In the 2006 and 2007 elections, some candidates complained about inconsistent rulings by the EC and CEO on complaints, as well as inconsistent interpretations of electoral policy between the two positions. In response, McCallum's report recommends that CEO not be a member of UVSS and that they have previous experience in conducting elections.

McCallum also recommended that the CEO have access to an independent legal adviser "to ensure that the CEO fully understands how to interpret the policy and evaluate and weigh evidence in the complaints process."

A meeting where Penny Beames was ratified as chair in 2006 spurned other recommendations. McCallum's report states that some board members told her "they understood that unless they ratified Ms. Beames as Chair, they could be personally liable if she successfully sued the UVSS." As a result, McCallum recommended that "complainants or respondents should not be represented by lawyers as this creates an uneven playing field." McCallum also recommended that terms such as "libel," "slander," "defamation," and "conflict of interest," be explained to board members.

During the 2006 election, the rulings of the CEO were questioned when he ruled on complaints and then invited the defendants to respond to his rulings. According to the electoral policy manual (EPM), "the subject is entitled to respond to the complaint prior to any ruling." The EPM also states that "if a party is to be disciplined the CEO should make every reasonable effort to meet with the candidate before rendering a decision on discipline."

As a result, McCallum recommended that "candidates who have had a complaint lodged against them shall receive a copy of the complaint prior to a ruling setting out the grounds of the complaint." McCallum also stated that disqualification of a candidate should only be used "in the most serious circumstances."

Recommendations were also made concerning the filling of vacancies, security of ballots and training for poll sitters.

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Grading secrets revealed

David Karp

Students taking math and stats courses receive the lowest average marks at UVic, according to a report obtained by the Martlet.

Undergraduate Grading Patterns documented "grading anomalies" from 2002-03 and 2003-04 — courses with excessively high or low marks.

In the 2003-04 school year, there were 22 blocks of classes where at least 60 per cent of students received an A+, including two math classes where every student earned an A+. There were also 45 blocks of courses where at least one-quarter of the students failed. Twenty-four of those blocks were math classes — mostly first and second year.

The report also showed that grade point averages (GPA) have steadily increased while the failure rate is falling. Between 1997-98 and 2003-04, the average GPA increased every year, rising from 5.25 to 5.67. UVic operates on a nine-point scale.

During that same time period, the percentage of grades that were A+ increased from 5.3 to 7.3 per cent, and the percentage of grades that were F dropped from 5.2 per cent to 4.2 per cent. On average, students received higher marks as they took upper-year courses. Students taking a first-year course were 3.7 times more likely to fail than in a fourth-year course in 2003-04.

BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

Highest GPAs (2003-04)

Human and social development	7.22
Education (general)	7.12
Educational psychology and leadership	6.94
Curriculum and instruction studies	6.85
Public administration	6.75
Germanic and Russian studies	6.66
Theatre	6.62
Fine arts	6.61
Social work	6.60
Pacific and Asian studies	6.59

Lowest GPAs (2003-04)

Mathematics and statistics	4.23
Economics	4.69
Chemistry	4.79
Biochemistry/microbiology	5.05
English	5.22
Tie: Physics/astronomy, philosophy, sociology	5.35
History	5.36
Mechanical engineering	5.39

Programs with highest proportion of A+ grades (2003-04)

Human and social development	20.6 per cent
Germanic and Russian studies	17.9 per cent
Music	16.0 per cent
General engineering	15.3 per cent
Pacific and Asian studies	14.6 per cent

Programs with lowest percentage of A+ grades (2003-04)

Law	1.2 per cent
History	1.6 per cent
Tie: English and political science	1.8 per cent
Business	3.1 per cent

Programs with highest failure rates (2003-04)

Mathematics and statistics	16.2 per cent
Chemistry	8.8 per cent
Computer science	7.7 per cent
Economics	7.0 per cent
Biochemistry and microbiology	5.6 per cent

Programs with lowest failure rates (2003-04)

Education (general)	0 per cent
Tie: Educational psychology and leadership, physical education	0.6 per cent
Nursing	0.7 per cent
Health information science	0.8 per cent

Blocks with highest proportion of A+ grades (2003-04)

Tie: MATH 399 F01 and MATH 491B S02	100 per cent
ELEC 426 K01	90.0 per cent
ER 338D P50	80.0 per cent
PACI 392 F01	77.8 per cent

Blocks with highest failure rates (2003-04)

Tie: CHEM 364 LY03 and 330 F02	50.0 per cent
STAT 260 S01	44.4 per cent
MATH 120 F03	43.1 per cent
MATH 102 F88	42.9 per cent

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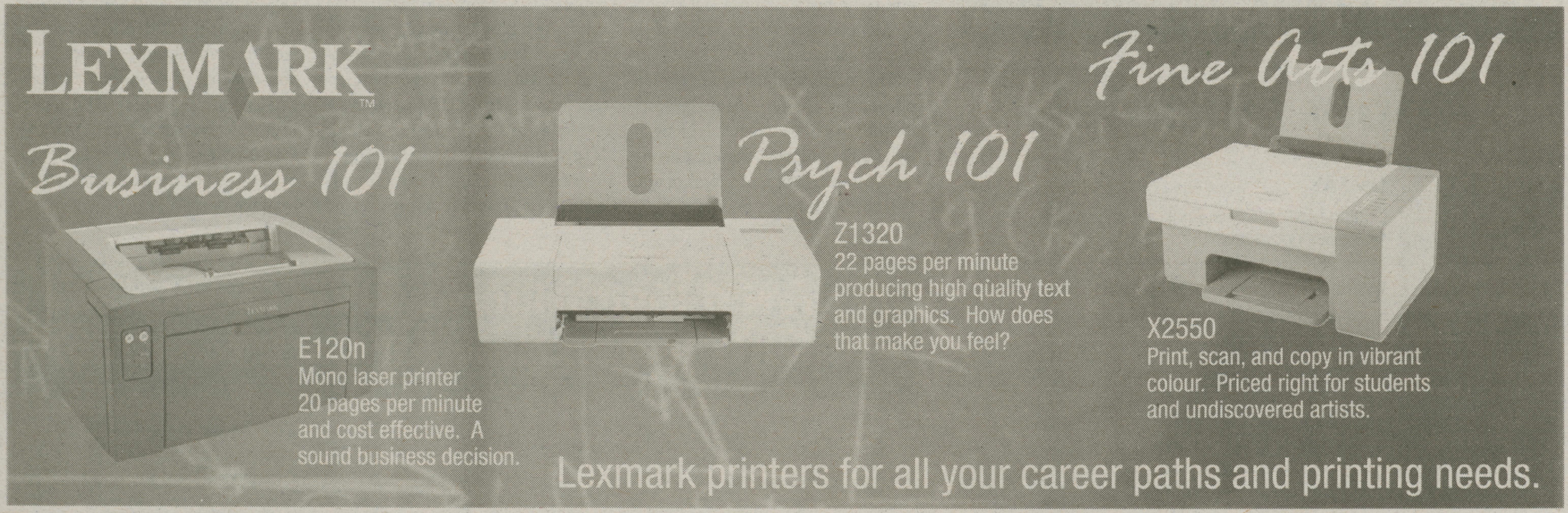

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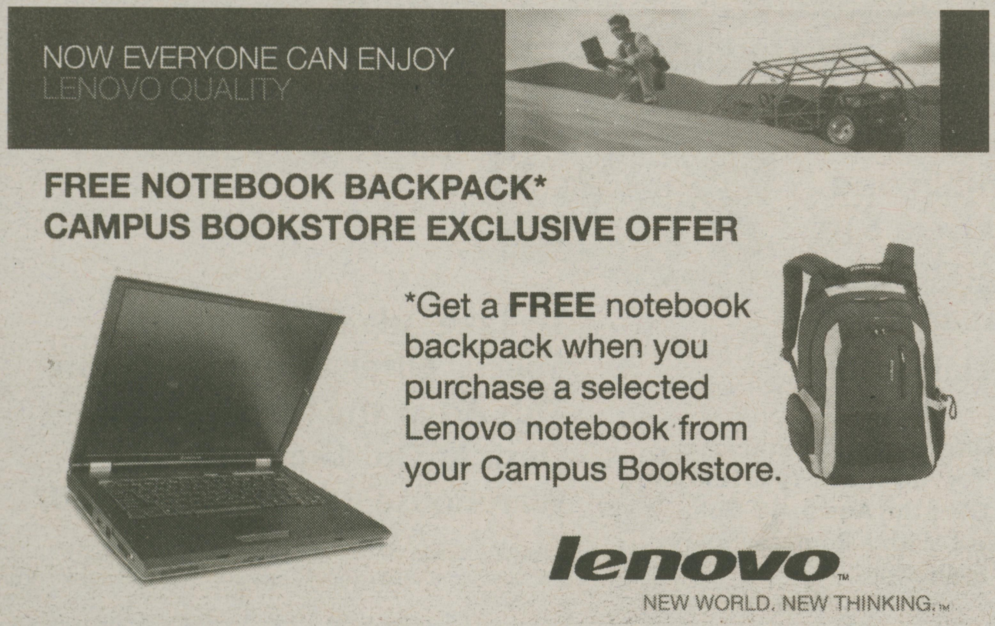

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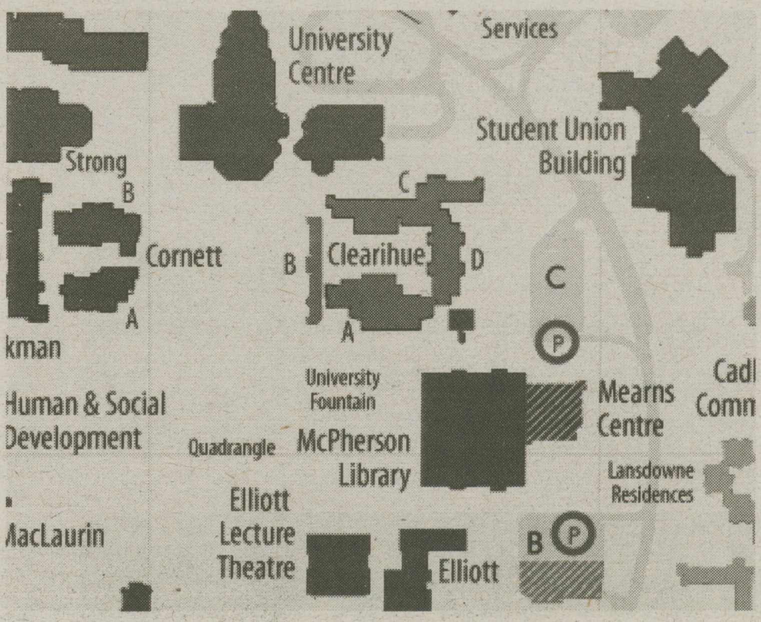

Eco staffer quit for ‘professional’ reasons

Tim Lindsay

Unsupportive UVic administrators, a lack of resources to do his job, and rejected or thwarted projects are among the reasons cited by a former UVic staffer for quitting his job in summer 2006.

Allan Dunlop was UVic’s transportation demand management (TDM) co-ordinator since June 2005 — a position devoted to reducing car traffic to campus and increasing public transit ridership, cycling and walking.

Dunlop dismissed rumors that he left his job for personal reasons. “It was dealing with the way the administration handled TDM issues,” he told the Martlet from his new home in New Mexico.

The support of senior administrators is essential to the success of the TDM program, but that support was partially lacking at UVic, said Dunlop.

Neil Connelly, UVic’s director of campus planning and sustainability, said there is definitely support for TDM at UVic and that this is formally addressed in the university’s strategic plan. Connelly began his job with UVic this April, many months after Dunlop’s departure.

Dunlop particularly had a hard time working with senior management in UVic’s facilities management department, who were hard to communicate with and acted in a “condescending” manner toward his TDM work, said Dunlop.

“You can mock it all you like. You can thumb your nose at me and call me a leather-clad tree hugger — I don’t care. But don’t take major projects and crush them. You don’t have to believe in them, but give me the tools to do my job and get out of the way.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF UVIC COMMUNICATIONS

Dunlop cited a “lack of co-ordination” hampering green projects.

Gerald Robson, executive director of facilities management, cautioned the Martlet against reporting on Dunlop’s allegations and would not discuss the topic. “Whatever [Dunlop’s] issues were, they have not been discussed with me,” Robson told the Martlet. “That [TDM coordinator] position does not report to me, and it didn’t at the time.”

Dunlop said there was a “lack of coordination” hampering TDM projects, citing a construction project that wiped out about 24 motorcycle parking spots, part of UVic’s TDM infrastructure. Nobody seemed to care about the lost motorcycle parking, Dunlop said, leaving him “scrambling” to find about $30,000 from someone’s budget to replace them.

To accommodate new buildings on campus and the ongoing construction work, Dunlop said he and others worked for three months on a proposed layout of campus transit stops and pedestrian routes, “which was incredibly necessary.

“Despite the huge number of people involved in planning, there was no thought given from what we could see to accommodating pedestrians.”

Dunlop was alarmed by a proposed fenced area along the sidewalk in front of the new science building, blocking a major pedestrian pathway from Ring Road into campus. Dunlop believed that because up to 60 people could simultaneously exit the nearby bus stop, the sidewalk would become crowded and students may walk on the traffic-filled road.

To develop an alternative layout of pedestrian routes and transit stops, Dunlop and others consulted with facilities management project managers, BC Transit, the Canadian National Institute of the Blind, the accessibility co-ordinator, the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability, and employee groups in the affected buildings.

The resulting plan envisioned a new bus stop large enough for multiple buses on Ring Road next to the Engineering Lab Wing, making that a new main pedestrian pathway into campus. The proposal may have cost $60,000 to $90,000, a small amount relative to the total cost of the new building, said Dunlop.

But the proposal was rejected. After three months of work and all the consultations they had done, Dunlop believed the plan was rejected too quickly based on limited discussions.

Dunlop expressed his concerns to then director of campus planning and sustainability Tracy Corbett. Corbett relayed those concerns to Robson but without effect, said Dunlop. Corbett has since left UVic to take a planning job with the Capital Regional District.

“I realized it was not the best use of my time,” said Dunlop. “Everyone had said about the university, ‘It’s just the way it is.’ For me to think I could change the whole culture would have been foolish. So I decided to take my skills and passions and put them to use elsewhere, which is what I’m doing now.”

In New Mexico, Dunlop is about to launch a program teaching how to start a cycling instruction business.

Dunlop said it was difficult leaving because so many of the people he dealt with regarding TDM issues were “absolutely phenomenal.” He also regrets that a few projects had to fall by the wayside because of his departure.

But he maintains that his challenges at UVic were not the result of personality conflicts.

“Without the support of the administration and a willingness to take some really strong steps, we’re not going to go anywhere,” said Dunlop.

TDM POSITION UNDER REVIEW

UVic’s petite office of campus planning and sustainability may trim itself a little bit more.

The two-person office consists of director Neil Connelly and sustainability coordinator Sarah Webb. Until last summer, it also included a transportation demand management (TDM) co-ordinator devoted to reducing single-occupant vehicle trips to campus. Connelly is considering whether a full-time TDM coordinator position is the most effective use of resources.

“There’s certainly a transportation demand management program,” Connelly said. “We’re just looking at different approaches around how we would implement that program and there really haven’t been any decisions made specifically about how that’s going to be carried out.”

For now, Connelly and Webb are allocating some of their time to the TDM program, which includes projects related to transit services, carpooling, car sharing and cycling.

Having a position devoted to TDM was recommended in a 2003 report commissioned by the university to outline TDM options and recommendations. The report said that if TDM measures consist of carrots and sticks, parking management strategies are the vital stick, more important than any other TDM measure.

“No amount of promotion or incentives ... will garner changes in travel habits if parking remains relatively inexpensive, abundant and overly convenient,” the report read.

Connelly noted that parking rates at UVic will increase again this year — and next year — as part of a three-year plan approved by the UVic board of governors. He acknowledges that nobody likes to pay more for parking, but said fees need to reflect the true cost of parking on campus.

The 2003 report recommended a full-time “high level parking and TDM advocate” who would outline parking and TDM objectives for facilities management and other departments in support of the university’s strategic plan. The report said this “would not compromise the current management structure of Campus Security ... and Facilities Management.”

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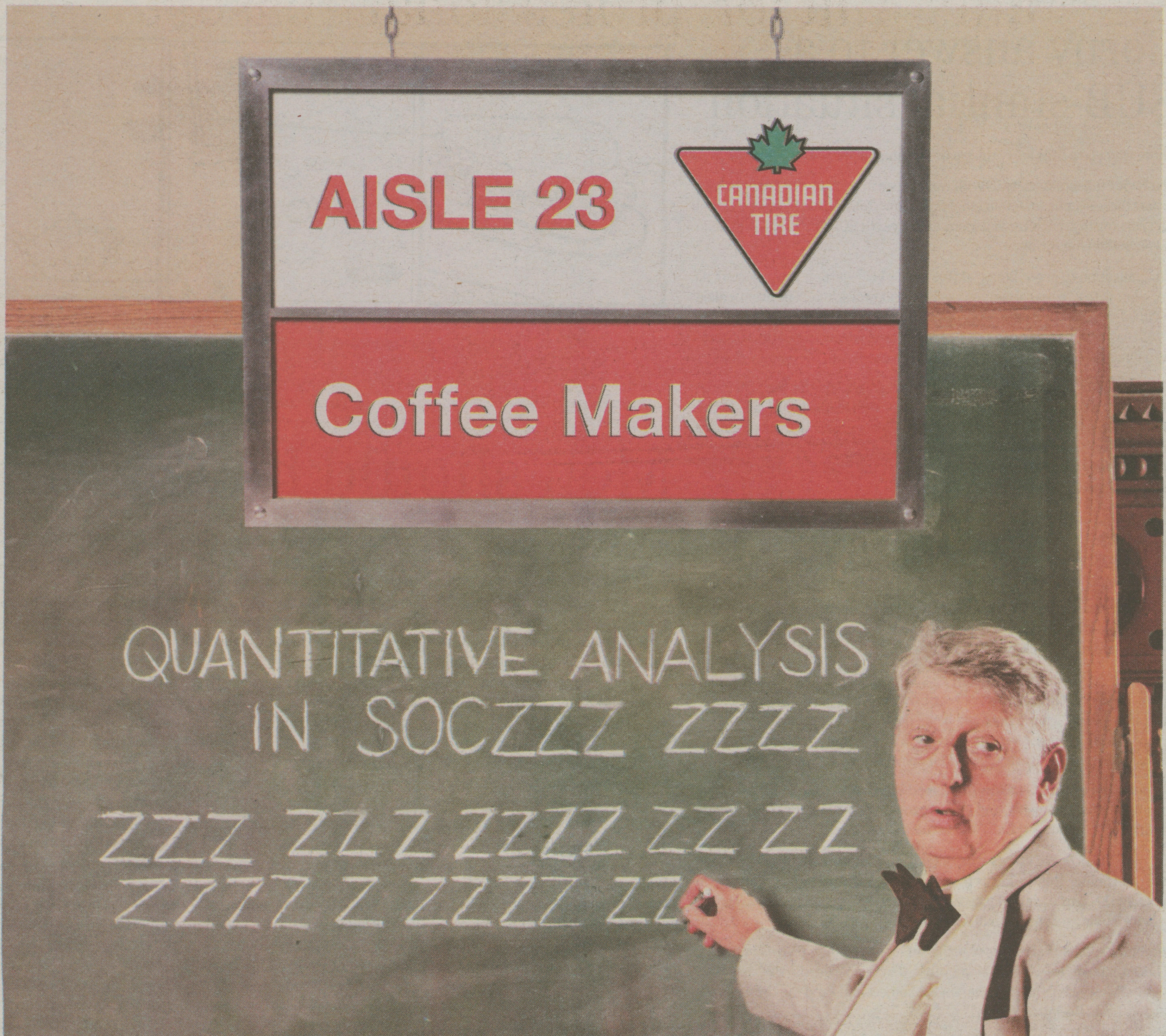
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EDITORIAL

Corny answer to a SUB-stantial situation

There won't be a SUB Party this year. The annual beer garden is dry.

The UVic Students' Society (UVSS) would need a special event liquor license to host these events, something that the Liquor Control and Licensing Board isn't rushing to grant after violations at last year's SUB Party and a violation at Felicita's in the spring.

An application to serve liquor at this year's beer garden was rejected, so we're left with a "corn garden" on the first Friday of school. The event, called Cornival, features free corn, a barbecue, music and "inflatable games." The UVSS may have missed out on its 18- to 24-year-old demographic by not earning a liquor license, but at least the toddlers can play in the bouncy castle.

The UVSS didn't even bother applying for a liquor license for the SUB Party. The society's preliminary budget, yet to be passed by the board, doesn't allocate a single penny toward a SUB Party. That's probably a good thing. If the "Cornival" is any indication, one can just see the toddlers lining up for a dry SUB Party with Sharon, Lois and Bram as the headliner, with Raffi and Dora the Explorer as the opening acts.

The SUB Party used to be cool. Past acts included Vancouver punk rockers Gob and hip-hop group Swollen Members. Last year 2,200 students showed up to hear Pilate and a bunch of other bands — and enjoy downing beers in a place you usually can't.

Sure, students had to fork over all of $30 to get in and the event was never a money-maker for the students' society, but at least there was something to look forward to on the way back to classes.

For all the naysaying, the SUB Party was a beautiful thing. You got to catch up with friends from the previous year, find out what they did in the summer, meet new people from school and bring down the classroom jitters with a pint of Felicita's finest. More importantly, it was the only occasion of note on our campus's otherwise unspectacular social calendar.

But no longer. Students looking for a good time will have to head downtown with the freaks and geeks, and if you're looking for a college crowd, you're out of luck.

The new UVSS board knows what kind of bad PR they could get by trying again and failing. But the fact is that right now there's nothing organized on campus to keep us socialite lushes interested. There's no frosh week. There's no homecoming for the football team. There's no school spirit.

Without quality social events to bring students together, UVic is in danger of becoming soulless. Think about other Canadian schools. UBC has Arts County Fair, Queen's has their infamous homecoming and the University of Calgary hosts Bermuda Shorts Day.

We have Cornival.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 12:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

LETTERS

Beware of dog

To the owner of the large yellow dog that killed a rabbit at the entrance of the Interfaith Chapel at UVic on the morning of Aug. 19: thanks for the memories.

Your pet crashed through the shrubs along the fence and made a beeline for my 16-year-old terrier, or so I imagined. I scooped her up off the ground to safety, and watched as your dog attacked a rabbit. That rabbit died after stumbling around for a minute or two. Had its distress gone on any longer, I hope I would have had the courage to intervene. You and your dog were off merrily on your way, according to the other dog walkers who spotted you a short while later. I wonder how many more rabbits or other small creatures are maimed or killed when you aren't looking. I'll be keeping my ears and eyes open in case your dog mistakes my dog for prey next time.

- Cheryl Gregory, UVic student

Stop the whining

"It's more of an issue that they don't like me and they don't care about clubs or students."

- Director of Services Erica Virtue, in Board Brief (Aug. 16).

As an alumnus who graduated in 2005, it pleased me to see UVic students are no longer electing directors who are whiny, selfish, irresponsible sore losers.

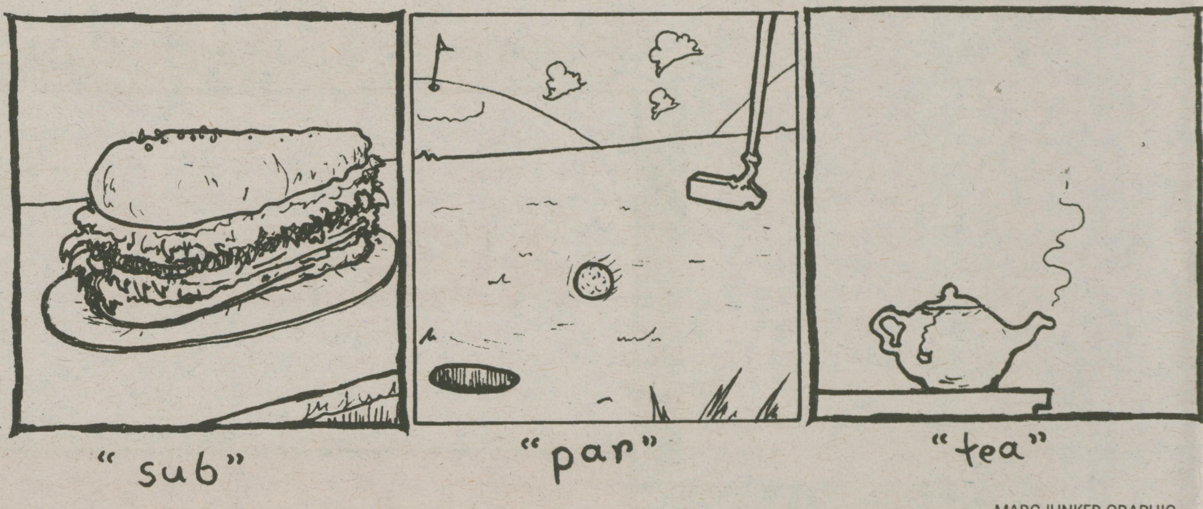
Oh, wait...

- Matt McCormick, UVic alumnus

Happy? Sad? Enraged? Engaged? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca

The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited for length. Deadline for letters is 10 a.m. on the Monday before publication. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

THIS YEAR'S SUB PARTY



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Men should have a voice

David Karp

The UVic Students' Society has a women's centre — so why isn't there a men's centre?

Perhaps this is best answered by questioning why we have the Women's Centre, an organization which all full-time undergraduate students, male and female, pay 95 cents per semester (full-time students pay an additional $2 per semester into an account shared by the Women's Centre and advocacy groups for students of colour, Native students, gay students and students with a disability).

According to the website of the Women's Centre, they "strive towards providing a safe(r) space for networking among women on campus and in the community. " A safe place to meet people, have a coffee and share business cards is great, but if there's some benefit to women networking amongst themselves, certainly there must be a similar benefit to men networking with no women around. This also begs the question of why men are paying for a networking location for women.

The site adds, "We advocate for the political, economical and social equality for women and marginalized groups." This is a noble pursuit. But it also implies that women at UVic are marginalized — politically, economically and socially.

As far as economic equality goes, male and female university students are essentially equal these days. A 2002 Statistics Canada study of university graduates with bachelor's degrees found that wages depended on subject area rather than on sex. "These patterns are relatively consistent for male and female graduates," the study said.

What about political equality? If we look at sheer numbers, women made up 60 per cent of UVic's undergraduate student body and 58 per cent of graduate students last year. Women undergraduates outnumber men in every faculty except engineering. So men are actually in the minority at UVic.

In a society where one person gets one vote, this means women have more political clout than men on the UVic campus. This holds true if we look at our students' society — 11 board members are female while only nine board members are male. This is even more extreme among the society's executive: three-quarters are female. In fact, the Women's Centre gets an automatic seat on the board, with no seat guaranteed for a male. So the women-are-marginalized-politically argument doesn't really work.

Then there's social equality. It's clear that males have a tougher time at university. A 2004 research paper by Statistics Canada and Human Resources and Social Development Canada found that 17 per cent of male students drop out of post-secondary education, compared with 13 per cent of females. And that's after they get here — the numbers show that far more women are entering university than men.

It's also clear that males are underrepresented in the course offerings at UVic. A quick look through the undergraduate calendar shows that UVic offers 38 courses with "women" in their title, 17 courses with "feminism" or "feminist" in their title, and one with "female" in its title. Guess how many courses have men, male, or masculinity in their title? One. And it's offered by the Women's Studies department.

The very existence of the Women's Centre — given the absence of a men's centre — is another example of social inequality against males. There is a safe networking space on campus for women, which is partially funded by men. Unfortunately, males are denied such a space.

I have nothing against the Women's Centre. They play a valuable role in the lives of many female students. The issue is that gender equality, one of the issues the Women's Centre is there to push for, is not upheld when female students are given the valuable Women's Centre resource while males have no equivalent benefit.

Women's issues have come a long way since the Women's Centre was created more than 26 years ago. It's time to recognize that the scales have shifted, and if the Women's Centre wants to continue fighting for gender equality, it's only fair that men should have a voice too.

Victoria developing too fast

Roland George Rasmussen

Everywhere in Victoria you can find construction projects.

Old houses are coming down and newer ones are being slapped together at a furious pace. This is mostly heralded as a sign of progress and that our economy is prospering. But is our quality of life also rising?

A friend of mine said that it should be a crime to build in an earthquake zone. We live on top of the mother of all fault lines. This place is slated for destruction and it is just a matter of when. He said it is a certainty that Victoria will be hit by a massive earthquake and tidal wave — so why are we developing in such a fervour?

I recently climbed Mount Finlayson and could see the changing landscape of the Western Communities. It was mind-boggling how our green space is disappearing. On drives to the countryside, I've noticed how the Agricultural Land Reserve has been shrunk.

Victoria is not the city that it once was. The city 20 years ago was one that housed historical buildings and an industry of the past. It was the heritage sites that attracted tourists because we were special and unique.

Today, I see a city that is starting to energize — one that resembles many other small cities across North America. It has a commuter population that is mostly in the suburbs. It is desperately trying to establish residences inside the downtown. It has a vast population of homeless people that have no support.

Yet we are building more residences. It is not for those who need them most. There is no rent control. There are no standards for safety — or if there are, they're not being enforced.

What happened to the political process? Where did the laws go that protected heritage buildings? How did the developers get the run of the city?

How are all these changes going to help our society in the years to come? If the "big one" hits, will it just be an excuse to rebuild in the face of a disaster?

martlet
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WAR OF WORDS: Marri Knadle vs. Steve Carey

Trans fat ban

Trans fats are a type of fat created when liquid oil becomes hardened through a process called partial hydrogenation. These fats have been found to increase a person's risk of heart disease. A poll by Ipsos in August found that 79 per cent of British Columbians would support a ban on trans fats in restaurants, but others believe that government shouldn't tell people how to live. Two Martlet writers argue about the merits of such a ban.

Knadle: Trans fats have only been a part of the human diet for a few generations, and it's only recently that we've begun to recognize the inherent health risks of trans fats. It takes only a two per cent increase in trans fat calories in your diet to double your risk of coronary heart disease. To achieve the same result, you'd need an increase of 15 per cent in saturated fat calories. For national health's sake, policy-makers have a prerogative to limit the consumption of these completely unnecessary fats.

Carey: Policy-makers shouldn"t decide what we can and can"t eat. Rather than a ban, our society needs to educate people on the benefits of eating healthy. Look at what"s in our products. Did you know that toothpaste is a cosmetic, and therefore doesn"t need to have ingredients listed, or that Cool Whip has Polysorbate 60 in it, a major ingredient in sexual lubricants? We still brush our teeth, we still eat shortcake, we still drink Coke, and no amount of "banning" will stop that.

Knadle: A decision not to ban trans fats is still a decision to define what Canadians can and can't eat. A Queen's University study found at least 57,181 obesity-related deaths between 1985 and 2000. Education of the public has not worked satisfactorily. And with the wealth of consumer products on the shelves, shoppers cannot be expected to research and analyze every questionable ingredient in every one. It falls to the government — to decrease the strain on health care and promote longevity — to remove this negative, unnecessary option.

Carey: You're saying that policy makers should ban trans fats, but that educating people on healthy eating is a decision to regulate what people can and can't eat. I'm saying that I should be able to eat a greasy chicken-fried steak on a patio in the sunshine while my children play, knowing full well about the benefits of eating "living food" and a "macrobiotic diet." Why is a ban on trans fats a public policy issue? It's foolish — a decision from manufacturers to eliminate them would be a more meaningful gesture.

Knadle: A decision by manufacturers would be a more meaningful gesture, but would it be effective? It's a public policy issue because individual manufacturers will not adhere to restrictions if they are not set at a federal level. Without the pressure from above, it's doubtful that we would see a significant enough decrease in the availability of trans fats to make cardiovascular disease no longer Canada's number-one killer. You can still eat a perfectly delicious, fat-fried steak that's low in the more dangerous trans fats.

Carey: Perhaps the public needs to put pressure on the manufacturers to value customer health over ease of production — but I'd be living in a fluffy-cloud-happy-happy dream if I expected that to happen. Another argument against a policy-maker ban is the argument of a nanny state intrusion. These become laws that are not enforced, such as in New Jersey and Oregon, where it is illegal to pump your own gas. In Massachusetts, it's illegal to deface a milk carton. Is it really OK that policy makers get media attention over bans and whacky rules, when we could spend their time better working towards something important like social housing?

Wise words for first years

Marri Knadle

So, it's your first year of university. Congratulations! Are you sick of all the well-meaning advice yet?

Let's be realistic. As soon as your courses kick into gear, you'll be too busy to sustain or implement idealized health regimes. Sleep? Proper water intake? A student does not know these things. And being so busy, you can often miss the real tips that you encounter that'll save you time, effort, and money. Here are the ones I was blind to for far too long.

First of all, trash that messenger bag. They look hip, but they're also the most distressing thing you can do to your back and neck muscles. Invest in a good backpack (with a laptop compartment if you need it), and wear it with both straps on to save yourself tension headaches later.

Two things at the Health Food Bar will save you in your darkest hours. The granola fruit yogurt cup (cheap, portable, delicious, very filling), and the flu-fighter juice concoction (warming on cold days, clears your sinuses, nourishes your body). I found them far too late in my second year, and looked back on all the ill-planned hungry mornings and prolonged bouts with the sniffles.

Dress decently. That doesn't mean you can't get away with showing up in your PJ bottoms every now and again. Just be aware that those super low-rise jeans that feel fine when you're standing will slouch down and bare all when you sit in class. Everyone behind you (and trust me, they will notice — you'll feel their rippling mental scorn), will thereafter think of you as Buttcrack. Save the risqué décolletage for weekends.

When you're trudging to class on a dark November morning like a zombie, go for an Americano or a cup of coffee and save yourself the extra dollars and cents that the frills of a mocha or cappuccino will cost you. If you can't stomach the joe without something else, remember that cream and sugar are free. You may feel a little silly mixing up your poor man's cappuccino under the barista's disapproving eye, but you'll be laughing when you have a great, budget-free Friday night out thanks to all the money you saved.

You'll be needing to keep track of a lot of things. A big whiteboard that you can easily see from your study space with upcoming assignments will keep you on track and on top. More importantly, you won't have to dig in your bag for a tattered agenda, or sift through tons of events on your computer's calendar — you'll be surprised how much preemptively accommodating laziness will help.

Eat to be happy as well as healthy. Sometimes there's nothing more satisfying than sinking your teeth into a bacon cheeseburger. Let yourself go once in a while, especially if you're up against exam stress. If lettuce happens to satisfy your soul, that's great. If it doesn't, remember that you can have the healthiest body in the world, but you won't be able to focus if your meal plan feels like deprivation.

Open up your eyes, keep level, and enjoy the learning experience. One last tip? Don't be afraid to try and pet the bunnies even when they run away. Everyone does it.

THE HAPPY HERETIC

Conversational intolerance stifles truth

Derek Madson

Many religious claims are destructive nonsense, and it's about time that intelligent men and women were able to say so freely.

In our hyper-PC western society, religious belief is a unique case where truth claims are immune to critical examination in a spineless appeal to "tolerance."

That religious claims ought to be tolerated on the basis of mere conviction is ridiculous. Religious claims are no different than any other claims. Either they are true or they are not true. Absurd claims in religion that are clearly false should be denounced as such, particularly if belief in the truth of these claims has clear negative consequences.

Religion makes some very potent claims indeed. An overwhelming amount of the violence and conflict in the world today is a direct consequence of belief in the truth of religious claims. These claims inform the political decisions and lives of billions of people, and have deep consequences for the survival of global society.

A critical analysis of religious claims should be society's highest priority. Instead, through much of the western world the concept of religious "tolerance" has led to religious truth claims becoming exempt from critical scrutiny. It is time to challenge this special tolerance that insulates religion from criticism. We must fearlessly encourage what the best-selling American author Sam Harris calls "conversational intolerance" against truth claims that lack credible reasons or are in direct contradiction to established evidence.

The most basic function of academia is to critically examine all claims to truth. We do not evaluate claims on the basis of how strongly someone believes them — we evaluate the reasons for that belief.

If a chemist claims to have discovered the lost secret to alchemy and can turn lead into gold, we do not respect their belief — we demand evidence. If a doctor claims she can cure cancer with leeches, we do not "tolerate" her strong conviction — we revoke her licence to practice. If a pilot attempts to clairvoyantly steer his airplane through mountain clouds without navigational instrumentation, we do not judge his claim on the basis of how strong his faith is — we ground him and send him for a psych evaluation. Lives depend upon us demanding evidence for these claims and marginalizing those who fail the test of reason, and that is a very good thing.

Religion is the only area where truth claims are treated differently. Faith — strong conviction without adequate reasons — buys religious claims immunity to rigorous critique, to the detriment of everyone. Lives depend upon these questions, and possibly even the survival of our civilization.

Either condom use in AIDS-ridden Africa is bad or not. Either the souls of unbelievers will be eternally tortured in hell or not. Either apostasy should result in beheading in this world or not. Either God promised Israel to the Jews or not. Either those who die in defence of Islam will get 72 virgins in paradise or not.

The kid gloves must come off. Millions of lives hang on the truth or falsity of religious claims. The time is long overdue for us to treat the truth of such claims with the same degree of rigorous scrutiny that we treat claims in medicine, engineering, chemistry, economics or plumbing.

Derek Madson is the president and founder of the UVic Carpe Diem Club, a secular humanist organization.

Further reading

The End of Faith: Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason by Sam Harris

Breaking the Spell by Daniel Dennett

Fecal matters

The controversy over sewage treatment

Sean Peterson

UVic could become the neighbour to one of Victoria's first sewage treatment plants.

The Haro Woods, located along Arbutus Road, and between Finnerty Road and Haro Road, is being considered by the Capital Regional District (CRD) as a possible location for a plant in east Saanich. The selection process is part of a $1.2-billion plan to clean up the region's act, as ordered by B.C. Environment Minister Barry Penner. The plan would see the construction of up to five liquid treatment facilities and one or more sludge-processing facilities, in Greater Victoria by 2016.

The announcement comes after the CRD commissioned the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) to analyze the effects of current sewage practices in Victoria. The report suggested that Victoria's outdated practice of releasing untreated liquid waste into the ocean could pose a future health risk, and the minister found the report damning enough to force the city's hand. The CRD is now hunting for a good location for a facility to serve east Saanich.

UVic guarantees its portion of the Haro Woods as a protected ecological site, but the university only owns about 30 per cent of the woods. The remaining 70 per cent near Arbutus Road is owned by the Municipality of Saanich. The portion owned by UVic is "not being discussed at all," assured UVic's director of facilities management, Gerry Robson. Regardless of where the facility ends up, it wouldn't have any adverse impact on the university, he added. "Try and keep in mind, the Haro Woods is only one of many sites being considered at this stage," said Robson.

The news hit Cadboro Bay residents hard earlier this summer, since volunteers have spent thousands of hours cleaning up the forest of invasive plant species. The forest looks better than ever as the project nears completion.

Haro Woods' fate will remain in limbo until sometime late next year when a consultant's report is complete. Meanwhile, local residents can take solace in the fact that their dedication to the woods proves its value to the community, something the consultant will keep in mind. The $468,000 report will take "social, environmental, and technical concerns … all into consideration when selecting a site," said the CRD's general manager of environmental services, Dwayne Kalynchuk.

The CRD wants to see a treatment facility in east Saanich fully completed by 2011. If Haro Woods is chosen, residents can expect to see a structure the size of a house — 50 by 60 feet, said Kalynchuk. "It would also be liquid only … no noise and no smell," he assured.

How sewage treatment works

Greater Victoria is the largest city in Canada without a sewage treatment facility. Nevertheless, your fecal matter (to put it delicately) doesn't simply shoot from the hole in the toilet and out into the ocean.

After the flush, a toilet's contents are routed to a pumping station, which uses energy to move it to one of the city's two outfall pumping stations — Clover Point or Macaulay Point. There, the untreated sewage undergoes "preliminary treatment": large screens catch anything larger than six millimetres in diameter, thereby getting rid of most "floaties." The solid waste is trucked to Hartland landfill, while the remaining liquid still rife with organic matter called effluent is pumped out long pipes. The pipes release the effluent over 60 metres deep, and over 1,000 metres from the shore into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. According to the Victoria Sewage Alliance, over 45 billion litres of effluent is released into the ocean through these outfalls annually.

When released untreated into the ocean, the organic matter in the untreated effluent can still get broken down. Microorganisms living underwater break down effluent into harmless substances. But these microorganisms require a large supply of oxygen to survive and function, which leaves little oxygen for other marine life. And when the demand for oxygen is too great, marine life suffers — healthy organisms suffocate underwater without enough oxygen.

The only other treatment for the effluent comes from the CRD's source-control program. It attempts to minimize the amount of chemicals that reach the outfalls from commercial facilities by monitoring the facilities

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4
Victoria
Sewage
Filtered
5x

themselves. Harmful chemicals like detergents are restricted, and non-compliance comes with a hefty fine of up to $10,000. Still, the CRD's sewage treatment goals have been modest compared to the Canadian status quo.

When the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's report hit the environment minister's desk, the untreated sewage effluent hit the fan, so to speak. The CRD's treatment program has been completely reworked, and the goal is now to fully treat Victoria's sewage, beginning with a massive restructuring of our sewage system. Under the new plan, remaining effluent from preliminary treatment would move on to "primary treatment" nearby. Using more screens and rotating drums, 50 per cent of remaining small solids are removed.

The effluent would then move on to a "secondary treatment plant." This is the type of facility that the Haro Woods is being considered for. Secondary treatment is the key difference between Victoria's past, and its newly designed future. Secondary treatment simulates the ocean's job of breaking down the effluent, before releasing the effluent into the ocean through the outfalls. By today's standards, sewage is not considered "treated" until it has passed this stage.

Additionally, "resource recovery" is being considered. Many other cities with secondary treatment recover and reuse their wastewater to use in flushing toilets and watering golf courses. Sludge processing is an enticing resource recovery option. Instead of sludge from treatment plants being buried in Hartland landfill, it would be shipped to a facility that turns it into fertilizer or heats it to create biodiesel, which can be used to heat homes or run buses.

But each treatment upgrade comes at a cost to local taxpayers.

The controversy

The sewage treatment debate in Victoria swirls on now as much as ever. The disagreement centres on the financial cost of secondary treatment plants compared to the overall benefit — while some see the $1.2-billion price tag as a tangible means to an end, others question whether sewage treatment in Victoria is necessary.

Responsible Sewage Treatment Victoria (RSTV) is a group that promotes using the natural current of the Strait of Juan de Fuca along with improved source controls to deal with sewage rather than treatment plants. They cite scientific studies and professional opinions to show the effectiveness of Victoria's present sewage treatment system.

> Greater Victoria is the largest city in Canada without a sewage treatment facility. Nevertheless, your fecal matter (to put it delicately) doesn't simply shoot from the hole in the toilet and out into the ocean.

Dr. Shaun Peck, co-ordinator of RSTV, suggests that the Juan de Fuca's tidal current consistently carries our effluent to the Pacific Ocean, away from the Georgia Straight and Puget Sound in Washington state. Peck argues that the secondary treatment plants are unnecessary since the tidal current naturally supplies marine life situated near outfalls with the oxygen they need.

The main danger to the marine environment, according to Peck, is the region's insufficient storm-water pipe system, which has had numerous overflows this year. Other experts in RSTV blame these cracked, overflowing sewage pipes as the leading causes of beach contamination from sewage. Repairing this infrastructure would be a less costly solution.

"We don't think that there is a well-enough defined benefit," Peck said of the CRD's proposal. He calls the estimated cost as "out of control," and he wants both the CRD and the environment minister to reconsider the scientific evidence before moving forward.

Findings by the SETAC panel, on the other hand, suggest that both humans and marine life are currently at risk from untreated sewage effluent. The panel, made up of prominent scientists in the fields of biology, toxicology, and environmental studies, found that sewage can surface after exiting the outfalls and pose a health risk.

The sewage we dump leaves an environmental footprint, SETAC said in their final report, and the more we dump, the bigger it will get. The report found that damage to marine life for the most part has been localized around the city's two outfalls, but decided that future consequences to marine life were uncertain. The panel refrained from recommending outright that Victoria proceed with treatment plant construction, but it has essentially laid the first brick.

Whatever Victoria decides, it had better make up its mind.

"Due to the length of time required to plan, design, and implement public utilities, the 20-year future literally begins tomorrow," *cautions* the SETAC report. In short, it's decision time.

James Skwarok of People Opposed to Outfall Pollution (POOP) agrees. Skwarok is more commonly known as Mr. Floatie, a popular mascot that can be found in Victoria supporting further sewage treatment and resource recovery. "The time to treat our sewage is now," said Skwarok, "before it's more expensive, and before our marine organisms are contaminated beyond help."

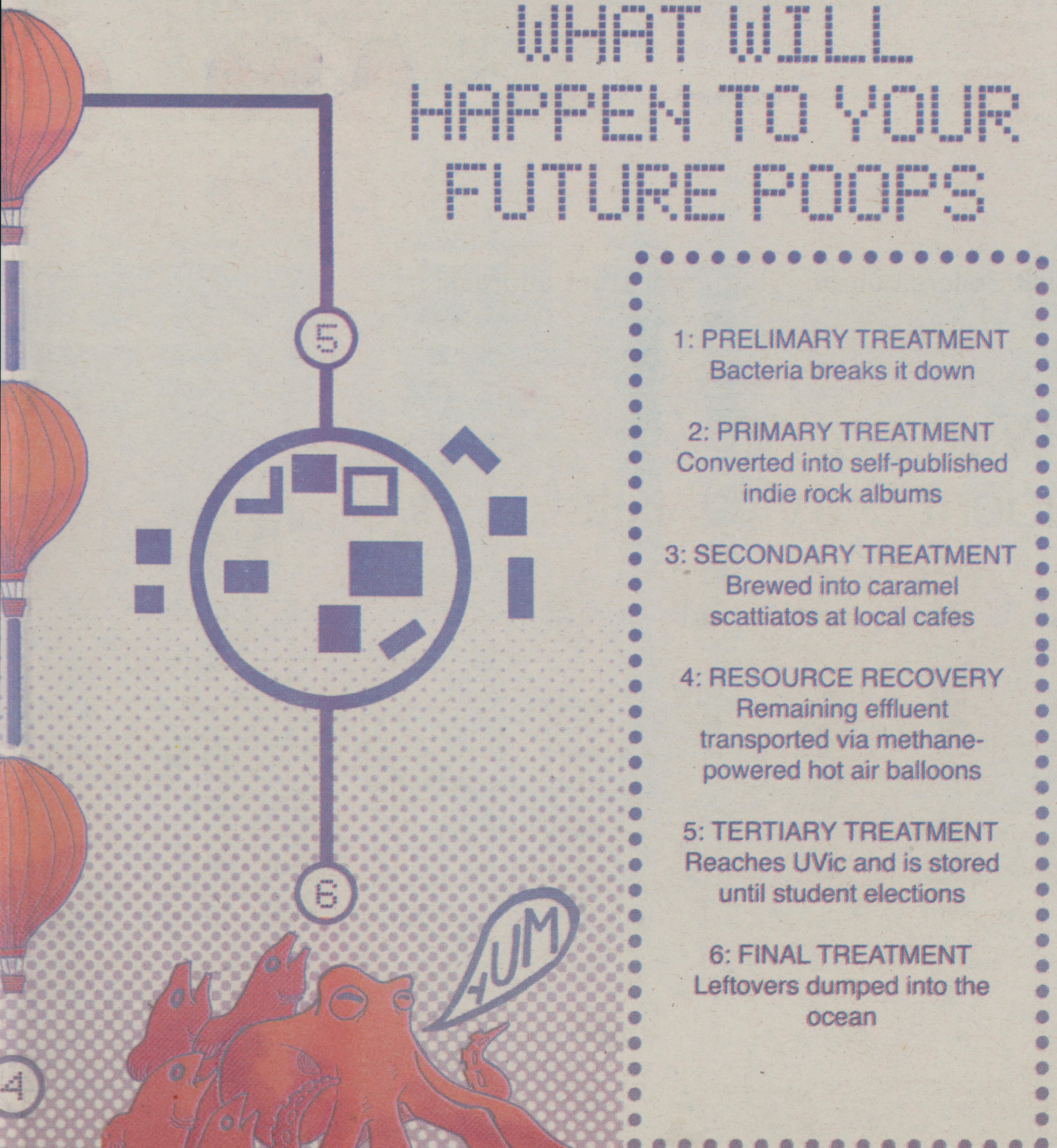
Skwarok is not alone. Public opinion in Victoria has shifted drastically in favour of increased sewage treatment over the last decade. According to a local poll by Environics Research Group, 61 per cent of respondents felt that the construction of sewage treatment plans should be a "high priority." Sewage treatment rated as the "most important community environmental issue" ahead of global warming.

Along with POOP, there are numerous other groups of concerned citizens promoting secondary treatment and resource recovery, including the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, the Georgia Straight Alliance, and the Victoria Sewage Alliance.

Reaching a verdict

The science on both sides leaves a lot of uncertainty. The SETAC panel struggled to produce definitive predictions on the danger to marine life, which they blamed on the district's poor monitoring over the past 30 years. There are visible effects of sewage — our beaches are sometimes closed by high bacteria counts — but it's difficult to tell whether it's caused by bad piping or a surfacing of outfall pollution. Ultimately, the public opinion may be swayed by non-scientific factors: international pressure, and our reputation.

On each side of the issue are caring members of the community trying to do what's right for Victoria. Like good scholars and neighbours, both sides encourage studying the facts, considering the future, and making up one's own mind. We are a unique city, situated in a very unique environment, which is likely why treatment has taken so long to come. Ultimately, the only certainty is that our shit does stink.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR FUTURE POOPS

1: PRELIMARY TREATMENT
Bacteria breaks it down

2: PRIMARY TREATMENT
Converted into self-published indie rock albums

3: SECONDARY TREATMENT
Brewed into caramel scattiatos at local cafes

4: RESOURCE RECOVERY
Remaining effluent transported via methane-powered hot air balloons

5: TERTIARY TREATMENT
Reaches UVic and is stored until student elections

6: FINAL TREATMENT
Leftovers dumped into the ocean

TK LONGMIRE GRAPHIC

Fringe Festival round-up 2007

Naked dancers in body paint, lesbians trying to make it in the big city, single women that are sexually frustrated, a blonde who fights for her rights at a McCarthy-era trial — the Victoria Fringe Festival is a non-juried, uncensored collection of shows from Victoria and around the world.

The plays are selected on a first-come-first-served basis; whoever has the guts to sit out on a street corner early in the morning to wait in a line can get their show in. This provides a unique opportunity for independent productions, a challenge to do what you want, all on your own.

The Fringe supplies venues and some promotional material, and independent production companies (or solo artists) do the rest, sometimes calling in favours to borrow props or rehearsal space or, in the case of a successful Fringe show, actually having a production budget.

This year's Fringe had 48 different performing companies, including a number of shows from some of UVic's finest alumni and students. Most shows did six performances over the 12-day festival.

Needless to say, everyone involved busted their asses to entertain, or even offend, the public.

The Martlet admires your weirdness and style, Fringe Festival, and looks forward to attending you again next year.

-Steve Carey

FRINGE REVIEW

Award-winning BLiNK a hit

Without words, without clothing and often even without music, *BLiNK*'s six dancers put on a powerful performance in the grassy yard of Point Ellice House on the Victoria side of Bay Street's bridge.

As audience members wrapped themselves in blankets for the dusk event, the dancers, masked by a chalky white body paint, mingled around the stage area in a meditative state.

They seemed not to notice the movement of people or the audiences' eyes on them, despite their only garment being a white cloth thong.

This is the traditional dress of Japanese butoh dancers, an obvious influence for artistic director and dancer Ingrid Hansen.

Butoh is a dark, improvisational dance form that aims to separate dancers from their bodies to become the movement and the art form. They don't express individual feelings, but rather the feelings of the human experience. This altered state was where the dancers were throughout the performance. And the result was powerful and at times eerie to watch.

If this sounds familiar, it's because the cast is a subset of those who put on *Riyoku Butoh* at UVic's Phoenix Theatre in November.

BLiNK, which took home the Fringe Festival's award for Best Physical Theatre/Dance, was more pure than their UVic show. It was less reliant on lighting, instead dancing in the sunset until the shadows took over and a single stage light was needed. There was also less music — the structure of movement and the theme was more open.

Perhaps *BLiNK* explored human nature and relationships. With modern dance there are many interpretations. Some might have seen a dance about love and hate or dependencies.

Scenes of beauty were contrasted with violence and silliness with focus. The music was simple when present. The dancers' only sounds were throaty breaths, howling laughter and moans.

By the end, much of the dancers' white paint was replaced by mud, from contact with the wet ground. And some audience members were patting tears from their eyes.

- Sam VanSchie

FRINGE REVIEW

Delores' Love Story: BitterScripts

If you can't find a decent boyfriend in Victoria, at least you can use the duds as fodder for a hilarious play. That's what writer Heather Walker did with *Delores's Love Story: BitterScripts*.

To the amusement of her gay friend Tom (Morgan Cranny), Delores (Amanda Lisman) rides the dating wave: falling in love, outta love and in love again. But the Victoria dating pool is shallow and Delores is desperate. You'd be too, with her track record.

Delores manages to dig up every creep, geek and cheapskate in the city. Bad dates are played by Rod Peter Jr. and his puppet.

Yes, there are puppets. Muppet style. And it's also a musical — with songs including *If I Were a Lesbian* (to the tune of *If I Were a Rich Man* from *Fiddler on the Roof*) and *Three for 25 at La Senza* (about her flirty red thong).

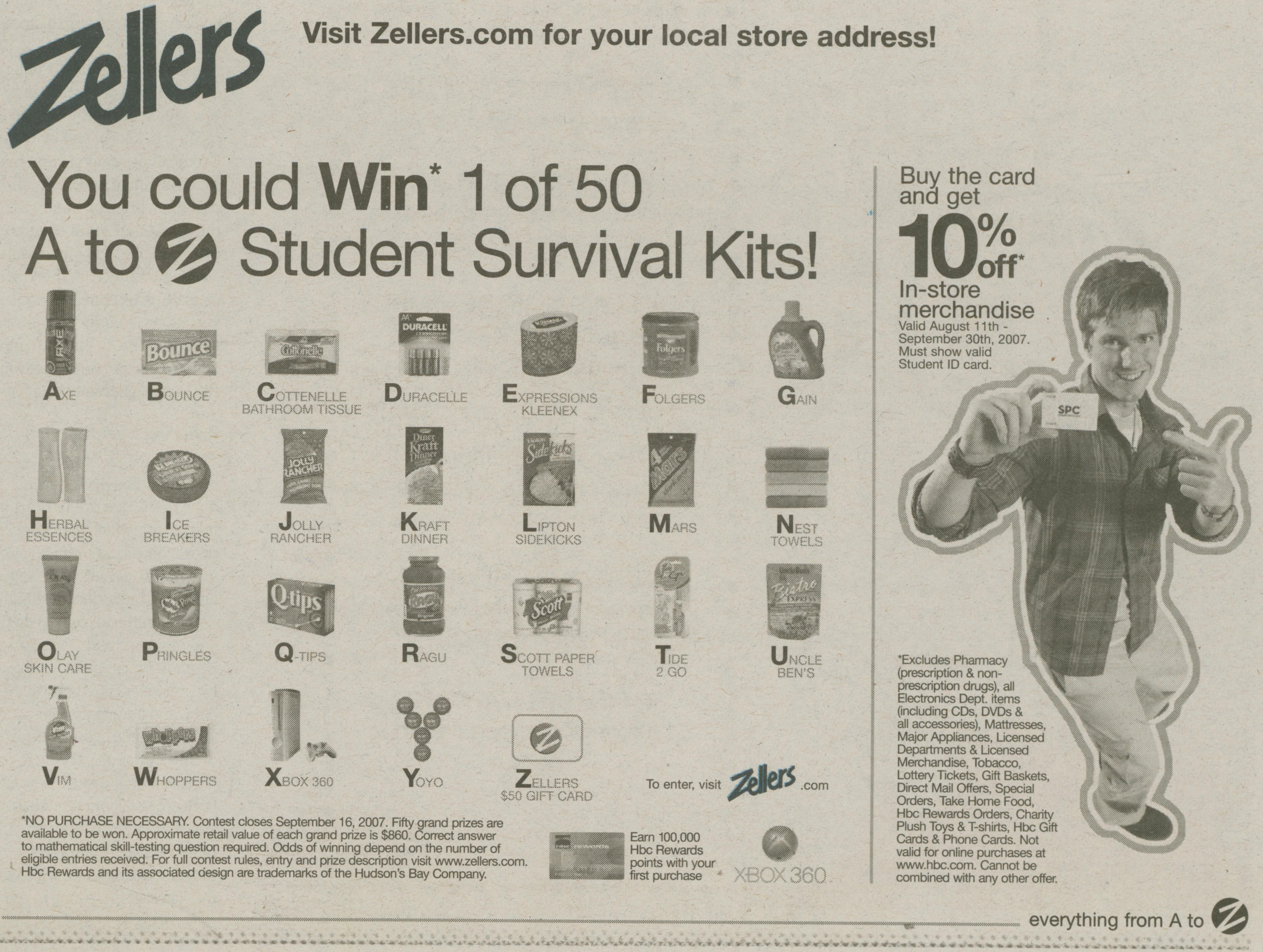
The playwright is as experimental with theatrical forms as her heroine is with lovers. Both come out better for the effort: Delores finally finds her soulmate (Michael Delamont) and Walker crafted an entertaining script from a tired topic.

Characters poke fun at how cliché their dialogue is, but it's only cliché because it's true. The predictable ending works because the man that finally flatters Delores is no prince.

And every woman off the dating market in Victoria is less competition for hopeful singles. Now it's only three women for every available gent.

- Sam VanSchie

PHOTO COURTESY OF INTREPID THEATRE



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FRINGE REVIEW

UVic alum strikes gold with Pitch Blond

Pitch Blond struck a perfect pitch as an outstanding dramatic comedy chronicling the unknown life of Academy Award-winning American sweetheart, Judy Holliday.

UVic-alum Laura Harris wrote and starred in this multifaceted Holliday bio-play which dips in and out of the debutante's controversial communist investigation, her childhood recollections of abandonment, touches on her brilliant IQ and her auspicious road to stardom.

Pitch Blond played at the Victoria Event Centre on Broad Street — a lounge-style venue that fit perfectly with the vibe of the piece and performance style of Holliday's early showbiz work in New York City.

The one-woman show opens with Holliday's 1953 appearance on the Johnny Olson-hosted game show *What's My Line?*, where the audience first glimpses Holliday's brand of crafty silliness as she answers a slough of self-identifying questions. But the questioning quickly takes a dark turn as the timeline shifts to Holliday's 1952 testimony before the U.S. Senate's internal security subcommittee during Joseph McCarthy's communist witch hunt of the early '50s.

During her deposition, Holliday's memoirs take the audience back and forth in time on a voyage exploring her sexual history and her mother's suicide attempt, as well as her so-called "communist" activities. These missteps included having a Russian mother, political activism and her nightclub debut with The Revuers act just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

The trial marks a dramatic twist in both the play and in Holliday's self-perception as a protector — a role she continues to fill throughout the testimony by employing her self-made ditzy blond routine, the caricature that made her famous. The move saves her from exposing her socialist ties and communist-leaning friends.

Laura Harris's easy charisma, wry grin and pitch-perfect imitation of Holliday's nasal New York twang engage the audience by making an otherwise sensational story immediately relatable. As a dramatic comedy, *Pitch Blond* was cleverly written and executed, pairing flashback sequences perfectly with witty (and possibly risky) dialogue between Holliday's animated personality and numerous voice-overs.

Under the directorial guidance of UVic student Judith McDowell, Harris's rendition of Holliday's life was obviously well-researched and well-rehearsed, rendering the piece an unforgettable moment of the Fringe's 2007 lineup.

- Melanie Tromp

PHOTO COURTESY OF INTREPID THEATRE

FRINGE REVIEW

Post-modern play isn't out there enough

Since this theatre festival is called the Fringe, I expected plays at the margins of the mainstream, at the periphery of safe and conventional dramatic fare.

But after seven plays and a litany of sighs, I was left unsatisfied, even perturbed, by entertainment that failed to distinguish itself from the usual corporate-sanitized mainstream product.

Ironically enough, of the plays I saw, the drama with the greatest desire to say something was also the most spectacular failure. *The Shy Situationist* concerns a girl fresh out of university who struggles to find a balance between love, life and work in Toronto.

The script is a mess. Every character comes off spouting the same po-mo theory — from the lead who aspires to be a writer to the head cook of the restaurant she works at. Guy Debord, writer of *Society and the Spectacle*, is quoted verbatim (an ugly and overt grab for authenticity), and the dialogue unravels in long and verbose chains.

What attempts to be profound proves to be shallow hyperbole full of self-aggrandizement, self indulgence and delusion without self knowledge. There is no forward momentum of a plot.

The lead actor delivers a great portrayal of her pretentious po-mo theorizing in a monotone, and that there is no discernable chemistry in the lesbian relationship leaves the audience in the peculiar position of watching a completely insulated, self-referential and artificial world.

The Shy Situationist fails to connect and it also fails to challenge. It eventually meanders to an end — a postmodern hangover.

- Gregory Virc

'Po-mo' explained

Slang for postmodernism, po-mo is a set of critical, strategic and rhetorical practices employing concepts such as difference and repetition to destabilize presence, meaning and identity.

It's thrown around a lot, and we're told that it's hip.

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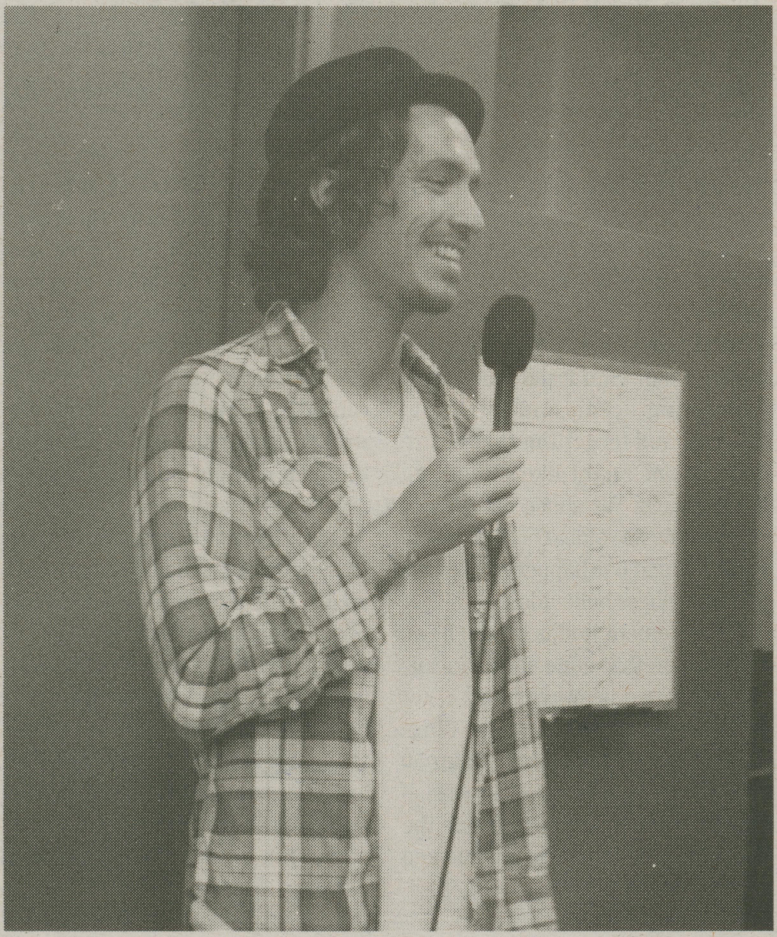
CONCERT REVIEW

Incubus wins over Punk Rock Barbie and Ken

Roland George Rasmussen



LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Brandon Boyd, lead singer of Incubus, mugs on the mic.

Incubus, with Brandon Boyd on lead vocals, drove it home that this was no amateur show. Boyd had a huge stage presence and delivered far above expectations at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre on Aug. 20.

But what the hell do we expect from a concert now? We experience the vibrations, hear what people think, sit on our duffs and dream of far-off places.

I'm almost suspicious of the sound which came from Mike Einzinger's guitar because it sounded preplanned. It was performance art and when the hand-held spotlight was put on him, he passed the inspection. He is a beautiful rock icon to be sure.

The crowd was in their late 20s to early 30s, with that return-to-school-to-get-out-of-debt-and-dead-end-job overbite, but not a mob.

"You think they'll mosh?" I asked the security guy. He gave a constipated powerful look that said he'd watch for it.

Drummer Jose Pasillas really did his thing. The band had rhythm and the jolts of sound pushed the crowd down. Even the guy posing with the perfect hair that had his arm around the girl with the perfect hair slightly nodded their heads like Punk Rock Barbie and Ken. The short intro piece put the crowd on edge.

The third song, "Wish You Were Here," was the real introduction. This was not Pink Floyd. Pink Floyd sucks grandpa.

Turntable whiz Chris Kilmore put it down on the spot with the energy of a rave-meets-Basement Jaxx. It was exactly like it sounds on their album.

One can really tell they love what they do. Serious about not just their music but the whole performance art of the rock concert.

The multi-talented Ben Kenny on bass was composed but underappreciated, like most bassists. Drummers may explode, but it's the bassist that is hard to replace.

At one point, Boyd tried playing West African drums, which didn't work too well. It was more of a, "Oh, that's different. Oh, the singer is drumming."

Even after the concert was over, the music continued, frenzied and loud. The question of a possible over-dub was on my mind. People could be heard riding bikes down the street singing, "Whenever tomorrow comes I will still be here…" over and over until the voice slowly drowned.

It was not clear what concert they went to. This was definitely not RUSH. It was Incubus.

An etymology lesson

According to the Oxford Canadian Dictionary, an incubus is "a male demon believed to have sexual intercourse with sleeping women."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Chicken Stuffed with Goat Cheese could impress a date.

BOOK REVIEW

Cookbook easy on newbies

Kim Magi

Look, Dude, I Can Cook!
Amy Madden
Syren Book Company
148 pages

Amy Madden's new book, *Look, Dude, I Can Cook!* breaks down cooking into simple steps for new college students who don't know their way around the kitchen.

Written for her son and two daughters, Madden separates the book into four sections: freshman, sophomore, junior and senior, with the recipes starting out easy and getting progressively more difficult.

I decided to start out with a recipe from the freshman section: Vanilla French Toast. I figured it couldn't be that hard — the directions were easy to follow and I already had all the ingredients at home. The toast turned out well, and was a nice change to the breakfast routine.

I also tried the As You Like It Mexican Salsa, which would have turned out better if I hadn't forgotten the onions. The Chicken Quesadillas, however, turned out great because I had a little help. The instructions were easy to follow, and there is a glossary in the back for unfamiliar cooking terms, which came in handy when a definition was needed for "roux" one night. Madden also includes definitions for slang that her kids picked up at college, such as "munchapoloozas" (consuming gross amounts of food) and "bag monster" (student who sleeps all day).

At the back of the book there are also lists of essential kitchen and pantry items to take to college, which I'm sure will be helpful … when I eventually move out of my parents' house.

Madden includes a variety of recipes for basics like chili, and recipes with which to impress a date — like Chicken Stuffed with Goat Cheese in Mushroom Marsala Sauce.

This book is useful to those just starting out, and of course the colour pictures of the finished product in the middle of the book are a nice touch too.

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Narrator Leonardo DiCaprio has well-coiffed hair.

MOVIE REVIEW

11th Hour goes beyond Gore's film

Sam VanSchie

Environmentalism is all the rage these days, a fact that's hardly surprising given all the documentaries, such as *The 11th Hour,* on the big screen lamenting humanity's bad habits.

Our First World eco-crimes are many: reliance on fossil fuels, overharvesting ocean and forest resources, and forgetting that future generations might like something left for them. We abuse nature, not recognizing its value. This film shows what will and has happened because of this reckless behaviour.

The argument builds off the basic assumption that none of us can survive without a healthy planet — not even Leonardo DiCaprio, the film's celebrity narrator. More than 50 scientists, engineers and other specialists come together to frame the problem, creating an accessible and varied overview of environmental issues.

There is plenty to be concerned about. Scientists describe how fast the world has changed since the Industrial Revolution. Our resource-subsidized lifestyles are linked to severe weather events, melting ice, pollution, disease and famine. Forget Al Gore's quest to prove global warming is caused by human activity — this film works climate change in as just one of the many harmful things that humans are doing to the planet.

This is all very depressing. But the latter part of the movie is more optimistic. Engineers and designers talk about possibilities for Earth-friendly alternatives that could replace our current luxuries, from solar panel heating to recyclable garments. They stress a requisite change in how we look at consumer goods and a needed appreciation for our planet.

The film advocates for a shift in collective consciousness, including a willingness on the part of individuals to pay more for products that are environmentally friendly — produced locally, from renewable and recyclable products. We'll do this because of a new-found moral obligation to save our planet and 'cause Leo said we better.

So you can walk out of the film with a new optimism, and perhaps a bit angry that big oil companies are trying to stop the eco-revolution. While some of the arguments are sensationalized and the issues are oversimplified, this film takes the issues out of academic circles and into the mainstream.

The 90 minutes you'll see is picked from over 150 hours of footage. There is something for even the most seasoned environmentalist and it's definitely a good place to start for people looking to get up to speed on the movement.

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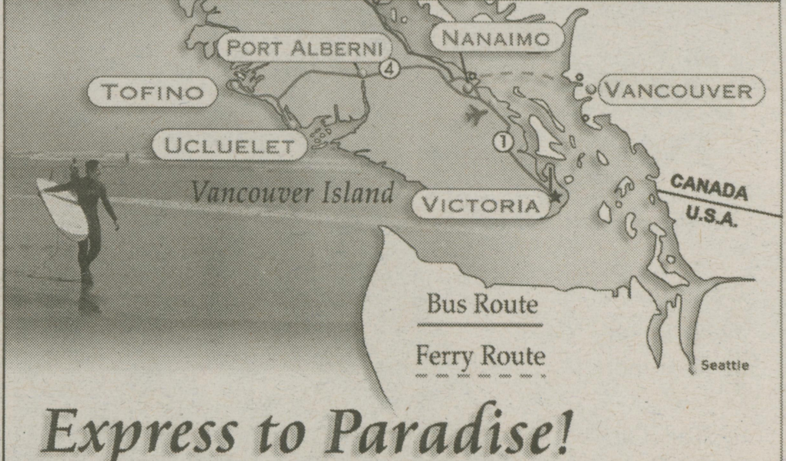

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CINECENTA MOVIE PREVIEW

Romani culture revealed through music

Steven Masuch

What: *When the Road Bends: Tales of a Gypsy Caravan*
Where: Cinecenta
When: Sept. 9-13, 7 p.m. & 9:20 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONGREL MEDIA

When the Road Bends is an in-depth look at the Romani people.

With an artistic culture spanning a thousand years and a tradition of colourful performances, making a movie about Romani music sounds easy. Showing the truth behind a culture that's been stigmatized for centuries is harder.

The movie *When the Road Bends: Tales of a Gypsy Caravan* is based on the second Gypsy Caravan concert tour, where performers from Romania, India, Spain, and Macedonia performed their own unique types of Romani music across Canada and the United States. The goal of the concerts and the movie is to show the depth of the Romani culture and break down the stereotypes that have led to persecution and even genocide.

Their music has influenced and been influenced by all the cultures they've touched, and is full of both celebration and despair. For the average North American, it's a sound mostly recognizable in traditional Eastern European wedding music.

The showcase of the movie is the performances, and they don't disappoint. Each group has their own style, yet the grand finale with all of the groups performing together at the movie's close is invigorating, with the instruments blending and weaving together to form a symphony of music and dance.

However, there is more to the movie than concerts. Interviews with the performers on the tour are complemented with glimpses of their homeland, their own ways of celebrating their heritage and the challenges that come from being one of the most persecuted groups in history.

The Romani people, commonly known as Gypsies, are an ethnic group that originated from India. Leaving sometime between AD 1000 to 1050, they headed towards Europe and are now scattered across the world. They were forced into slavery, had their children taken from them, and were one of the groups targeted by the Holocaust. In many places they are still discriminated against by segregation and racial stereotyping.

At times, the interviews with the performers can drag on a bit longer than they should. It almost makes it feel as if you're watching somebody else's home movies. But there's a shock towards the end that makes the investment in the performer's lives worth the time.

When the Road Bends isn't a documentary about the history of the Romani culture -- it's a celebration of the Romani spirit, full of music and life.

DRINKING WITH DEREK

Banned drink has addictive flavour

Derek Mandel

The victim of a snakebite often displays symptoms of panic, fear, emotional instability, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, vertigo, fainting, paralysis and death. The following recipe for a snakebite cocktail may only present 70 per cent of these symptoms.

The snakebite is a mixture that became popular in the United Kingdom. Until recently, cocktails were a foreign concept in pubs throughout the UK due to a lack of liquor variety and complex preparation.

The snakebite overcame these hardships by being easy to make while only using ingredients found in every British drinking establishment: lager, cider, and Cassis — a blackcurrant-flavoured liqueur. Despite its pink appearance, the resulting strong drink is manly enough, while still easily enjoyed by the ladies.

The strength of each of the components, with no non-alcoholic filler, results in a tasty yet lethal mixture. Beware the rate of consumption, as most British establishments refuse to make this drink because of the resulting euphoria.

Don't let the warning discourage this experience. Just be sure, as always, to enjoy in moderation.

THE SNAKEBITE

275 mL Strongbow English dry cider

275 mL lager

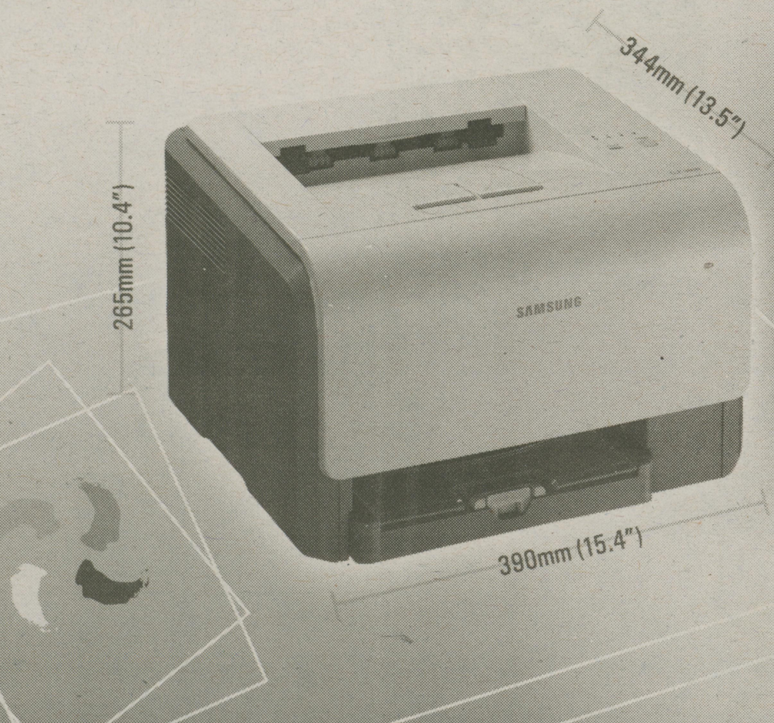
30 mL Crème de Cassis

Combine the ingredients in the order listed, pouring the Cassis on top to give a gentle red swirl.

Makes one drink (1 English Pint, 580 mL).

Choosing a lager

Any lager may be chosen for The Snakebite, but I recommend one produced by smaller breweries as opposed to generic brands. Smaller breweries tend to use older, more traditional recipes using fewer ingredients. The best choices should only have four ingredients and no preservatives. Good choices include Granville Island Lager, Okanagan Springs Lager, Harp Lager, or Vancouver Island Lager.



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CONCERT REVIEW

Immaculate performance at Logan's

Marri Knadle

Immaculate Machine ushered in September and bade farewell to their hometown of Victoria with a kick off show at Logan's Pub on Aug. 31.

Logan's is bigger inside than it appears from the outside, but the platform for bands is small and barely removed from the minuscule dance floor in front of it. Despite that, the atmosphere was more cozy and intimate than cramped, and even with nervous bike cops and scores of shifty-eyed youths dressed in studded denim outside, the air was charged with a feeling of easy camaraderie and expectation.

And the show? Immaculate Machine was a great main dish, served up late (but not cold) after mouth-watering local appetizer The Paper Cranes, and mismatched second course Rance Mulnix. No amount of $4 pints could wash them down.

The Paper Cranes are another Victoria-based indie group, and they opened the evening with zeal and talent to match, promoting songs from their most recent album, *Halcyon Days*. Their infectious music made a great impression on a receptive audience, who lined up quickly in front of their merch table after the show to get their hands on *Halcyon Days*.

While Rance Mulnix deserves credit for their devotion, the hip-hop trio was not an appreciated second act. The faux-pas they committed (a boom box that skipped their backup beats, the lead MC forgetting his lyrics, and a bizarre side act in which one member appeared to urinate chunky frosting from the front of his "rapper pants" to celebrate his approaching wedding date) ensured them a place in the memories of their audience members, but for all the wrong reasons.

At long last, only a hair's breadth away from the advertised 1 a.m. wrap-up, Immaculate Machine took the stage. Hunger had sweetened the beans — the group of svelte 20-somethings that had convened in Logan's was positively thirsting for them.

Immaculate Machine delivered the musical liquor, breaking into their show with "Pocket," the leading upbeat track from their latest album. Immediately the small dance floor in front of the band platform was stuffed with the bopping bodies of their admirers. "C'mon Sea Legs" was another crowd-pleaser, causing much swaying and head-nodding in the little sea of the few dozen on the dance floor. They played through "Jarhand" with smiles on their faces. The applause and hooting after each song was enthusiastic; the audience seemed made up almost entirely of devoted fans and recent zealous converts.

Their performance was as together, enjoyable, and accessible as their overall sound. Guitarist Brooke Gallupe, keyboardist Kathryn Calder and drummer Luke Kozlowski formed fantastic and unwavering vocal harmonies together, layering these on top of their talented instrumental work.

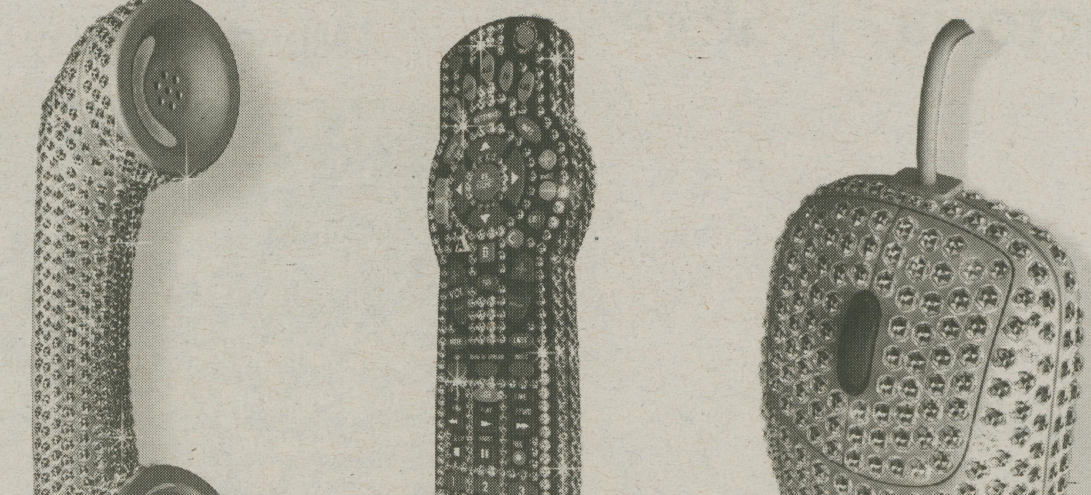
PROVIDED PHOTO

Go see Immaculate Machine play, even if you have to crawl through broken taco shells to do it.

The absence of a bassist brings the keyboard to the forefront of backup roles and throws their vocals into the spotlight. Despite having only three to their name, even stifled by a low ceiling and close walls, Immaculate Machine produces a full sound that doesn't let the ear want for more.

Fables, their most recent album, is being touted as their best yet — at the very least by the gents behind the counter at Ditch Records — and Immaculate Machine showed us why with several tunes from the 10-track disc. Their music is chronically catchy, with not a single unpleasantly surprising dud or track that can make you doubt a band's cohesion or direction. Each song is its own enjoyable entity, well placed with its neighbours on the album as a whole, combining rock and folk influences with aplomb.

Immaculate Machine will be taking their Paul Simon-inspired name on an American tour in the coming months. When they come home again for their as-yet unscheduled return, see them, even if they're playing in a dive bar. Immaculate Machine shone brighter than their surroundings and made the long night of waiting worthwhile. The only truly disappointing factors of their performance was that it didn't start earlier and couldn't go on for longer.



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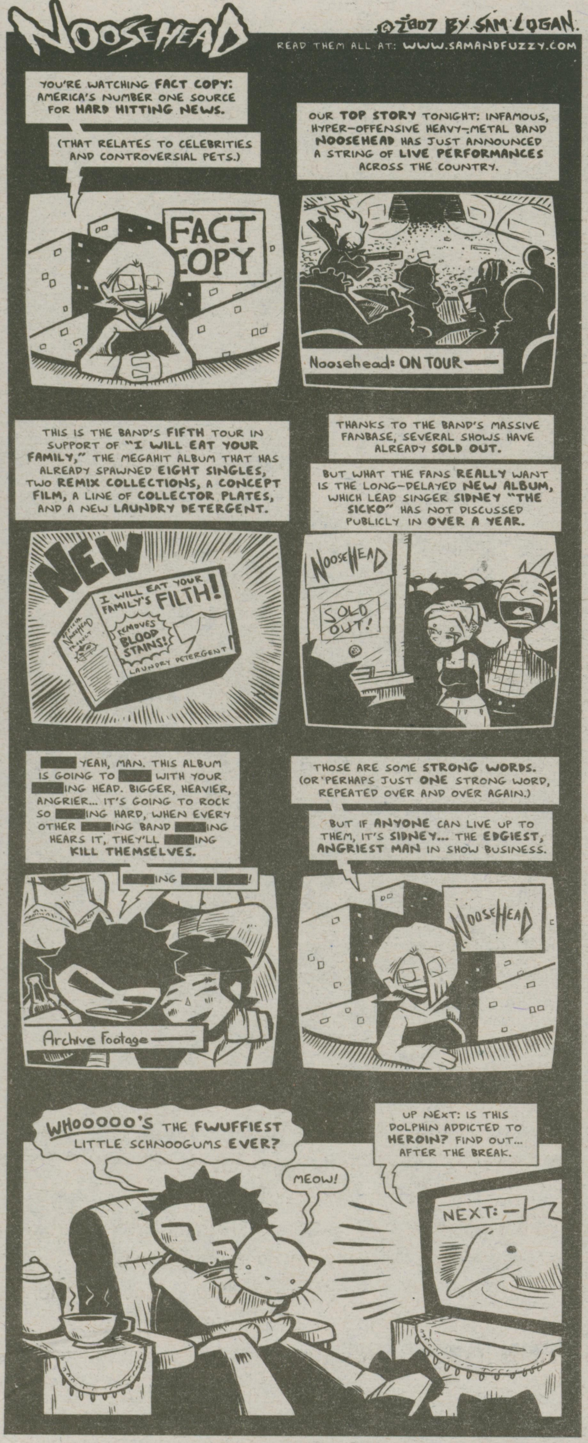
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Noosehead: ON TOUR
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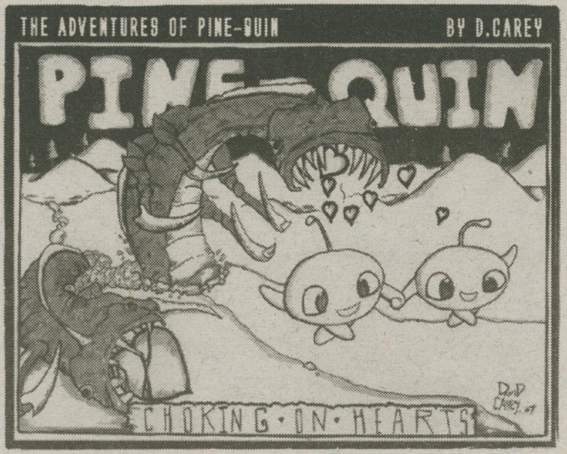
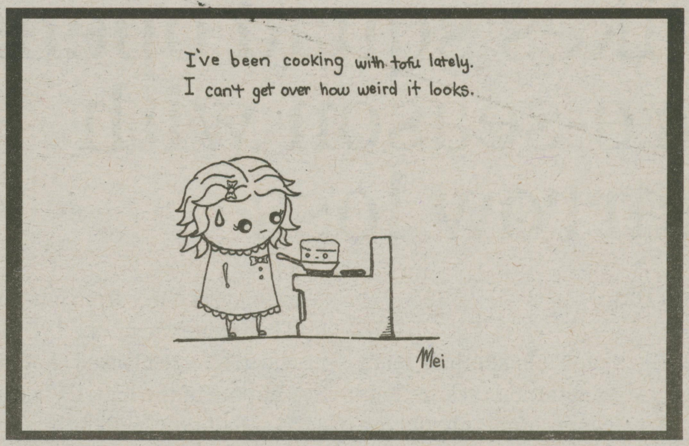
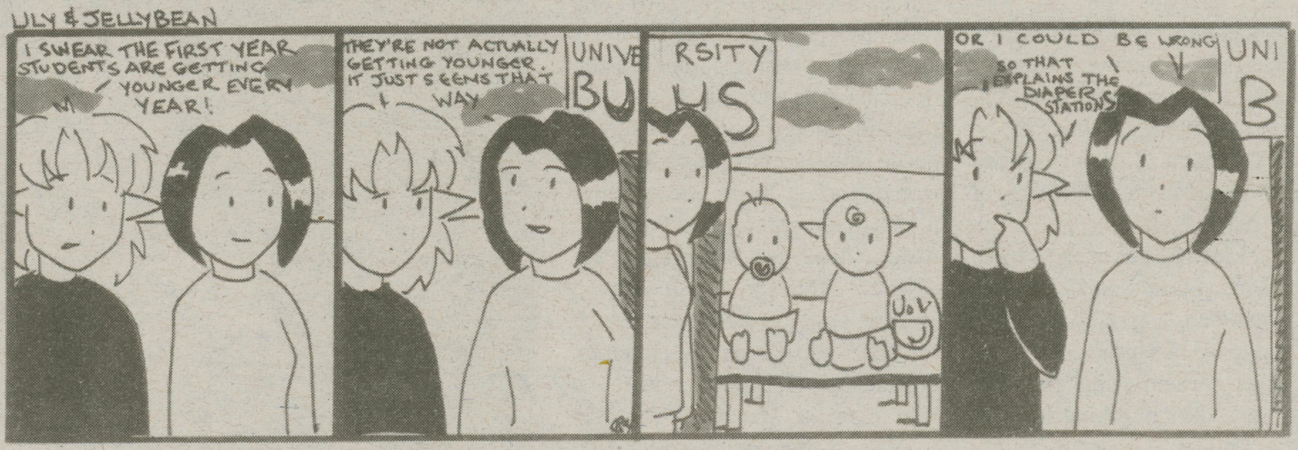
THANKS TO THE BAND'S MASSIVE FANBASE, SEVERAL SHOWS HAVE ALREADY SOLD OUT.
BUT WHAT THE FANS REALLY WANT IS THE LONG-DELAYED NEW ALBUM, WHICH LEAD SINGER SIDNEY "THE SICKO" HAS NOT DISCUSSED PUBLICLY IN OVER A YEAR.
NEW
I WILL EAT YOUR FAMILY'S FILTH!
REMOVES BLOOD STAINS!
OFFICIAL NOOSEHEAD PRODUCT
LAUNDRY DETERGENT
NOOSEHEAD
SOLD OUT!
[redacted] YEAH, MAN. THIS ALBUM IS GOING TO [redacted] WITH YOUR [redacted]ING HEAD. BIGGER, HEAVIER, ANGRIER... IT'S GOING TO ROCK SO [redacted]ING HARD, WHEN EVERY OTHER [redacted]ING BAND [redacted]ING HEARS IT, THEY'LL [redacted]ING KILL THEMSELVES.
THOSE ARE SOME STRONG WORDS. (OR PERHAPS JUST ONE STRONG WORD, REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN.)
BUT IF ANYONE CAN LIVE UP TO THEM, IT'S SIDNEY... THE EDGIEST, ANGRIEST MAN IN SHOW BUSINESS.
[redacted]ING [redacted] [redacted]!
Archive Footage
NOOSEHEAD
WHOOOOO'S THE FWUFFIEST LITTLE SCHNOOGUMS EVER?
MEOW!
UP NEXT: IS THIS DOLPHIN ADDICTED TO HEROIN? FIND OUT... AFTER THE BREAK.
NEXT:


THE ADVENTURES OF PINE-QUIN
BY D.CAREY
PINE-QUIN
CHOKING • ON • HEARTS
D.D CAREY 07

MeiCom


I've been cooking with tofu lately.
I can't get over how weird it looks.
Mei


LILY & JELLYBEAN
I SWEAR THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ARE GETTING YOUNGER EVERY YEAR!
THEY'RE NOT ACTUALLY GETTING YOUNGER. IT JUST SEEMS THAT WAY
UNIVERSITY BUS
OR I COULD BE WRONG
SO THAT EXPLAINS THE DIAPER STATIONS
UNI B
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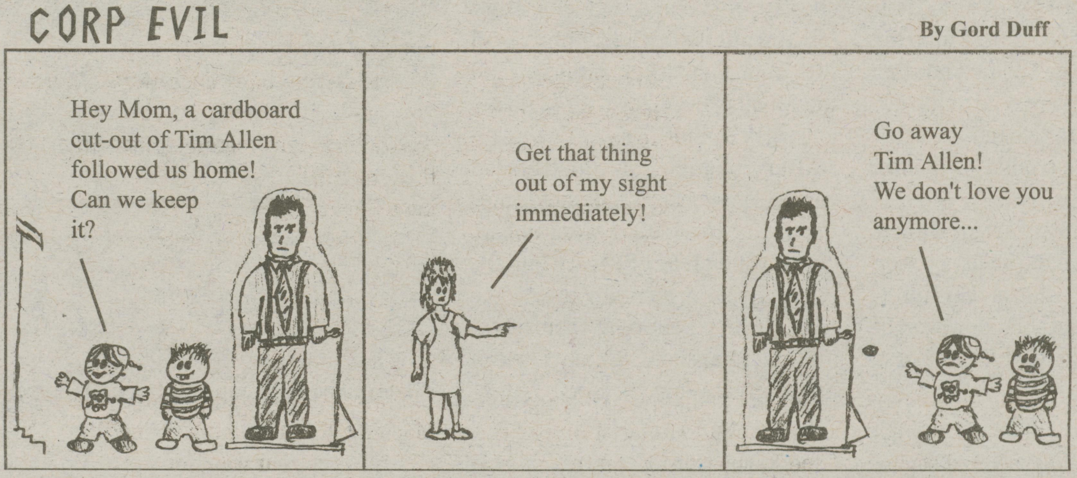
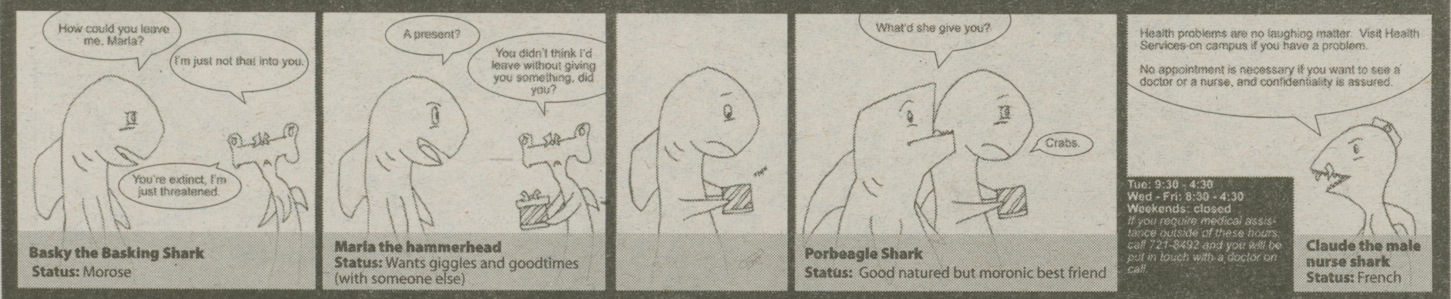

CORP EVIL
By Gord Duff
Hey Mom, a cardboard cut-out of Tim Allen followed us home! Can we keep it?
Get that thing out of my sight immediately!
Go away Tim Allen! We don't love you anymore...

END ANGERED SHARKS

BY STEVE CAREY

THE ADVENTURES OF BASKY AND PORBEAGLE

BASKING SHARK ENTHUSIAST


How could you leave me, Marla?
I'm just not that into you.
You're extinct, I'm just threatened.
Basky the Basking Shark
Status: Morose
A present?
You didn't think I'd leave without giving you something, did you?
Marla the hammerhead
Status: Wants giggles and goodtimes (with someone else)
What'd she give you?
Crabs.
Porbeagle Shark
Status: Good natured but moronic best friend
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Claude the male nurse shark
Status: French

FUN FACT: In June 2006 a female Hammerhead was caught off Florida, just days away from giving birth to 55 pups. Crazy, huh?

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	8						7	
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		3	6		9	1		
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The Martlet Crossword by David Karp

1	2	3		4	■	5		6		■	7	8	9	10
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	■	52		53		■	54		55	■	■	■	56	
■	57		■	58		59		■	60	61	62	63		
64			65		■	66		67	■	68				
69						■	70							

ACROSS

1 UVic's unofficial mascot
5 Bob Barker's advice
7 Snatch
11 What dog did to homework
12 Ambulance driver (abbrev.)
14 Floppy-eared elephant
15 Transformers (e.g.)
17 Turk living in Russia
18 Californian surf clothing company
19 Robotic learning (abbrev.)
20 Iron's symbol
21 Arctic dog breed
24 Actor Nolte or Cage
26 Summer footwear
28 Popular greeting
29 Largest U.S. state (abbrev.)
30 Flair
31 Quote
33 Master Chief and Cortana game
34 Israeli money
36 Half of 1997 Jim Carrey comedy
39 Groups of families
40 Added
42 Heart artery
43 Morning (abbrev.)
44 Four-stringed Hawaiian instrument
45 Between green and red lights
46 Unwanted email
48 Oil used during sex
49 UVic Student's Society director of academics
52 Small salamander
54 Cry
56 Scarborough train line
57 Record spinner
58 UVic woods
60 Sylvestrer Stallone character
64 Limit on imports
66 Parent's son (slang)
68 Colourful underwater animal
69 Friendly
70 Queensland capital

DOWN

1 Cut of roast beef
2 Perfect society
3 Canadian oil and gas regulator (abbrev.)
4 Kokanee mascot
5 Douglas or Yates (e.g.)
6 Popular bibliography style (abbrev.)
7 Knowledgeable mentor
8 RealNetworks file format
9 Stomach muscle
10 Soul's host
13 Female title (abbrev.)
14 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory author
16 Between Granville and Cambie
17 Japan's emperor
20 Ninth all-time in NFL rushing yards
22 Non-Jewish woman (slang)
23 Flying toy
25 Popular underwear designer's initials
26 Vacation destination
27 Super Mario gorilla
30 Popular green giant
31 Middle
32 Ticklish red muppet
34 Unkempt person
35 Room for women
36 Anchorman quote "I love ____"
37 Two in Roman numerals
38 Japanese cartoon style
39 Brief film appearance
40 Breath of surprise
41 Tsawassen municipality
45 Paper towel's activity
47 Variety of pear
50 Sound of displeasure
51 Old bread
53 George Michael's band
55 Type of gun
57 Exclamation of obviousness
59 Pound (abbrev.)
61 Air conditioners (abbrev.)
62 High shot in tennis
63 Female undergarment
64 Wally Oppal or Jamie Cassels suffix
65 Brand logo (abbrev.)
67 Surgery location (abbrev.)

Vikes squad opens pre-season with narrow loss

Gavin Day

The Vikes men's basketball team faced a very daunting task in their first pre-season home opener on Sept. 2.

UVic opened its campaign with a 76-65 loss to NCAA-power Marquette Golden Eagles from the Big East Conference. Marquette has been to the NCAA Tournament for the past two seasons. It is also the alma mater of Miami Heat star Dwayne Wade. The current Golden Eagles team features guard Dominic James, who flirted with the idea of entering the NBA draft this past off-season.

Marquette was playing their second game of the day, having defeated Douglas College 90-72 that morning.

Both teams struggled with their shooting early in the first quarter. While UVic's free throw shooting was weak, they were able to hit seven three-pointers to keep the score close. The Vikes trailed 18-13 after the first quarter.

In the second quarter, James showed his all-around ability by scoring on the penetration and by hitting shots from the outside. However, he ran into foul trouble with three first-half offenses.

The biggest cheer from fans in the first half came when Vike Tyler Hass provided a huge blocked shot in the last minute of the half. UVic trailed 34-25 at half-time, with fifth-year forward Rob Gudgeon leading the way with seven points and four rebounds for the home team. James led the Golden Eagles with 13 points.

In the third quarter, the Vikes pulled within six points on a Brandon Dunlop three-pointer before James hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to restore the Eagles' 10-point lead.

Heading into the fourth quarter, Marquette held a 54-44 lead, which the Vikes were unable to chip into. Isiah Pasquale scored to reduce the lead to six but Marquette was able to restore their double-digit lead shortly after. James led all scorers for Marquette with 22 points and fifth-year guard Rob Kinnear lead the way for the Vikes with 12 points and six rebounds.

After the game, Marquette head coach Tom Crean was full of praise for the inexperienced Vikes squad. "For a young team, they are hungry, aggressive and mentally tough," he said. "If they believe in themselves and their coaches, I think they can have a great year."

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Vikes guard Brandon Dunlop (left) closely guards Marquette star Dominic James.

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Gauchos come from behind to lasso UVic

Gavin Day

The UVic Vikes blew an eight-point halftime lead, losing to the University of Santa Barbara Gauchos 74-64 on Sept. 3.

The Vikes men's basketball team continued their preparations for the upcoming Canada West schedule with their exhibition game against the Gauchos in the McKinnon Gym. Coming off a very competitive game against Marquette the night before, the Vikes were unable to hang onto their lead against the Gauchos, who play in the NCAA's Big West Conference.

The Vikes took advantage of some poor Gaucho shooting in the first quarter to jump out to an early lead. UVic's defence was impressive, holding the Gauchos to 26 per cent shooting. While UCSB tried to apply some early full-court pressure, the Vikes were able to distribute the ball well. At the end of the first quarter, the Vikes held a 17-13 lead.

UVic was able to extend its lead in the second quarter thanks in part to the Gauchos getting into foul trouble. The Vikes hit six free throws, compared to only one for the Gauchos. Heading into halftime, the Vikes had extended their lead to 37-29. Second-year Vikes forward Mike Berg impressed off the bench, pitching in with six points in four minutes of play in the second quarter.

Entering the third quarter, the Gauchos showed why they are one of the favourites in the Big West Conference. Their full-court pressure helped force 10 third-quarter turnovers and they found a way around UVic's man-to-man defence.

UCSB head coach Bob Williams said that his team has been working on its defence. "We're looking to get more offence from our defence this year," he said after the game.

By the end of the third quarter, the Gauchos were in front 54-52. Gauchos guard Alex Harris led the comeback with 11 third-quarter points.

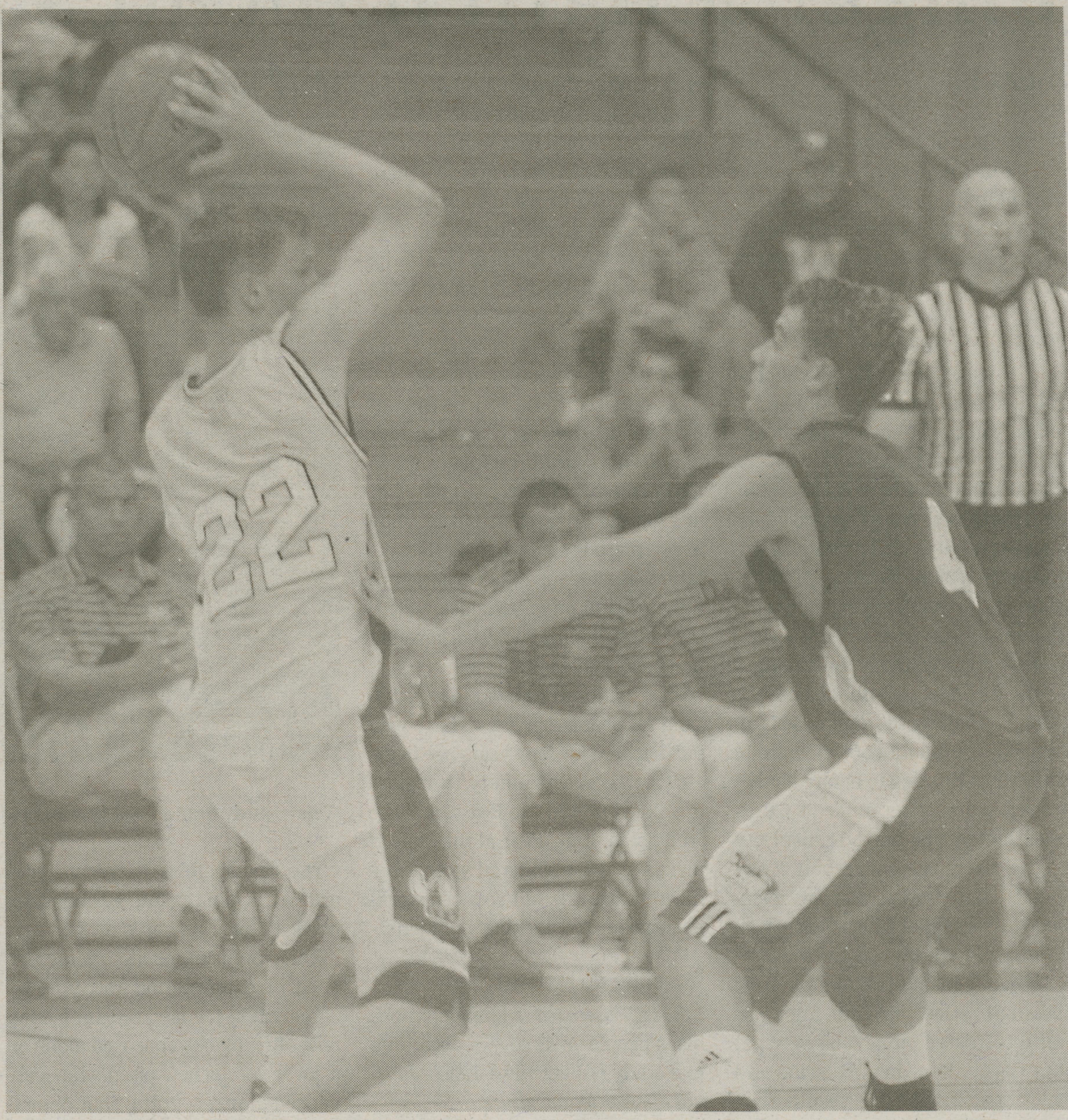
UVic coach Craig Beaucamp said that the Vikes were a little rusty heading into this game. "We've practiced four times before this weekend," Beaucamp said.

The Gauchos gained momentum in the fourth quarter, while the Vikes seemed to fade. UCSB out-rebounded UVic 11-8 in the fourth quarter and used that strength to extend their lead.

Beaucamp praised the Gaucho defence. "They kept pressuring us and our lack of experience showed."

What's a gaucho?

A gaucho is a South American cowboy. It's also a style of wide-but-short pants often worn by gauchos. The University of California at Santa Barbara has called its sports teams the Gauchos since 1934, when it decided it didn't like its old name, the Roadrunners.



LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Second-year Vikes guard Jeff Cullen throws a pass over the head of California's Paul Roemer.

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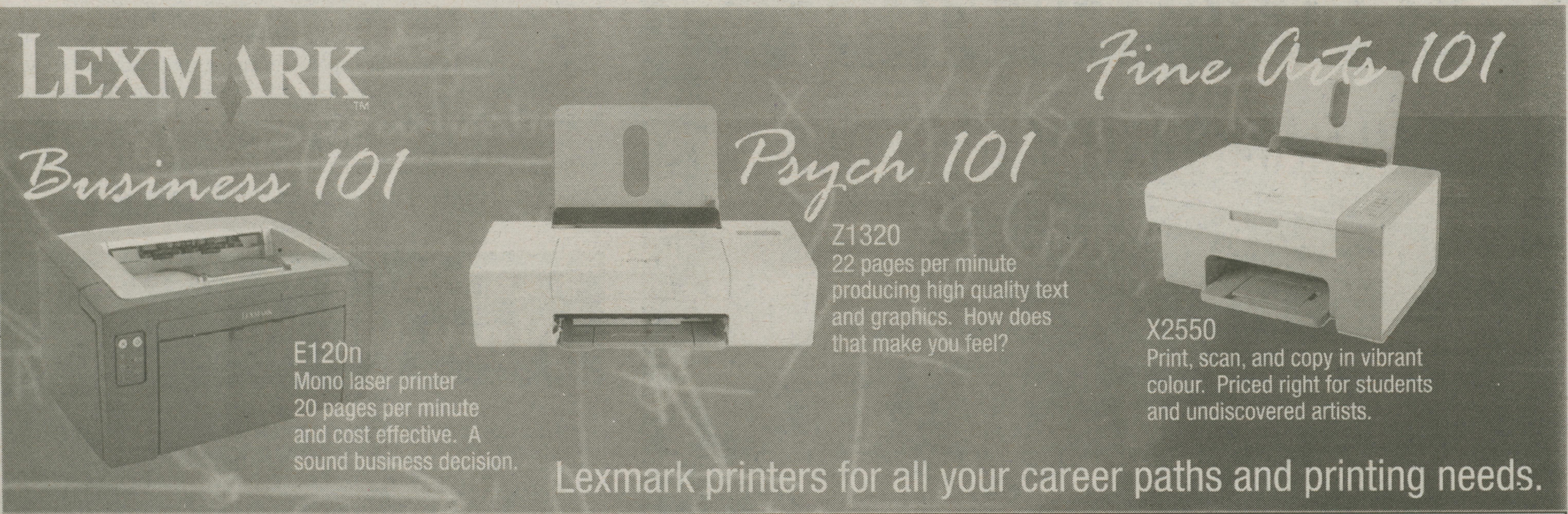

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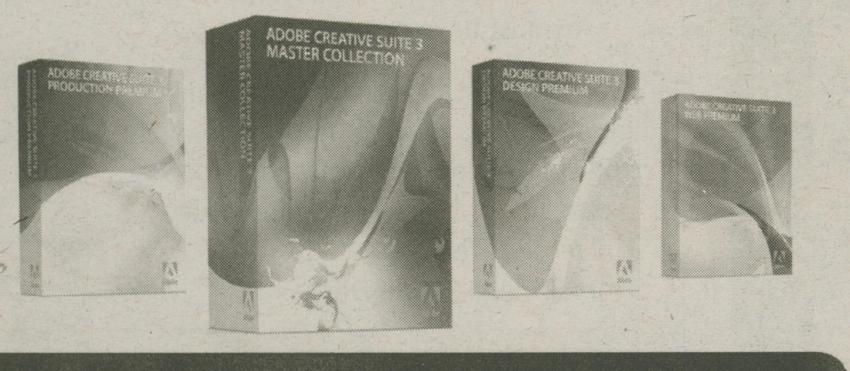

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RESEARCH ROUNDUP

Finger length indicates athletic success

David Karp

When most of us study sports, we do so from our couch with a remote control in hand. Some enthusiastic researchers go a little more in depth. Here's the latest in sports research from around the world.

Pointing a finger at success

Look at your fingers. If your ring finger is a lot longer than your index finger, you might have what it takes to be a superstar athlete.

That's the message of a study by two researchers from England's Durham University, published in the August edition of the *Journal of Personality*. The researchers examined the digit ratio — the length of the second finger compared to the fourth finger — and its effect on athletic success. Scientists believe the digit ratio is affected by the amount of testosterone a person is exposed to before birth.

The researchers examined 155 British athletes who played university rugby, soccer or basketball. They found that their digit ratio was correlated to the level at which they played sports, for both women and men.

They suggested that people with low digit ratios, and thus high prenatal testosterone levels, may get less tired when they exercise and enjoy sports more as a result. "The sporting benefits of a low digit ratio may be as much in the body as in the mind," they concluded.

Jocks drive drunk but don't steal

High school students who play sports are more likely to drink and drive later in life than the average high school student — but less likely to shoplift, according to new research.

The study by American researchers Douglas Hartmann and Michael Massoglia was published in the summer edition of the *Sociological Quarterly*. The researchers used data from 763 people who were grade nine students in St. Paul, Minn. in 1988, following them into adulthood until 2002.

"As opposed to those who did not participate at all, those involved with high school sports are 68 per cent less likely to report having shoplifted at age 30," the researchers wrote. They argue there is a cause-and-effect relationship because the researchers accounted for other variables, including an individual's social background and past criminal behaviour.

The results were even more startling for drunk driving. "Those who participated for four years are twice (101 per cent) as likely to report drunk driving in the last year," the study said. It also found that sports increased speeding and violent behaviour at work, but reduced workplace fraud and parking violations.

Covering up racism

Sports Illustrated is showing more black people on its covers, according to a study published in June's *Journal of American Culture*.

Three U.S. researchers looked at all *Sports Illustrated* (SI) covers featuring white or black baseball, basketball or football players from 1954 to 2004. The review of the 2,057 covers found that pre-1975, only 24 per cent of covers showed black athletes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REAL SALT LAKE

A new study found Freddy Adu brought 164,370 extra fans to MLS games.

The researchers "determined a critical 'tipping point,' a time when black athletes appeared on *SI* covers in comparable numbers to white athletes. This time period was 1975-79."

The study focused on comparing how often blacks appeared alone on a cover versus how often whites appeared alone, arguing that depicting an athlete alone rather than in a group gives him more prestige.

"In the 1975 and later time period, whites appear individually on 4.3 per cent more SI covers than they do in group photographs while blacks appear on 3.5 per cent more covers individually than in groups — comparable proportions. However, during the pre-1975 era, blacks are featured individually only 0.9 per cent of the time more often than they are in groups while, whites appear individually 15.7 per cent more frequently than they do in group photographs."

The research found that modern SI covers reflect the actual proportion of black and white athletes.

Will Beckham be as successful?

Signing soccer phenom Freddy Adu was a good value for Major League Soccer (MLS).

Adu, the 18-year-old American soccer star, joined the MLS's D.C. United when he was only 14. Adu later played for Real Salt Lake before leaving the MLS in July to join Portuguese club Benfica.

The study by the University of Delaware's Timothy DeSchriver was published in the Journal of Sport Management in July. DeSchriver studied all 150 MLS games from the 2004 season to determine what effect Adu had on attendance.

"Holding all else constant, we can estimate that the presence of Freddy Adu at games in which DC United was the road team produced an additional 10,958 spectators," wrote DeSchriver.

This means Adu was responsible for bringing out 164,370 extra fans in 2004. DeSchriver looked at average ticket prices, merchandise expenditures and concession purchases to estimate that these new fans generated US$3,258,209 in revenue — significantly more than Adu's US$500,000 salary that year.

The study found that only fireworks and the American national team were more effective at attracting fans. "Holding all else constant, it is estimated that an additional 14,566 spectators went to games at which fireworks were performed and another 20,577 spectators attended games in which the U.S.A. National Team was also playing," the study said.

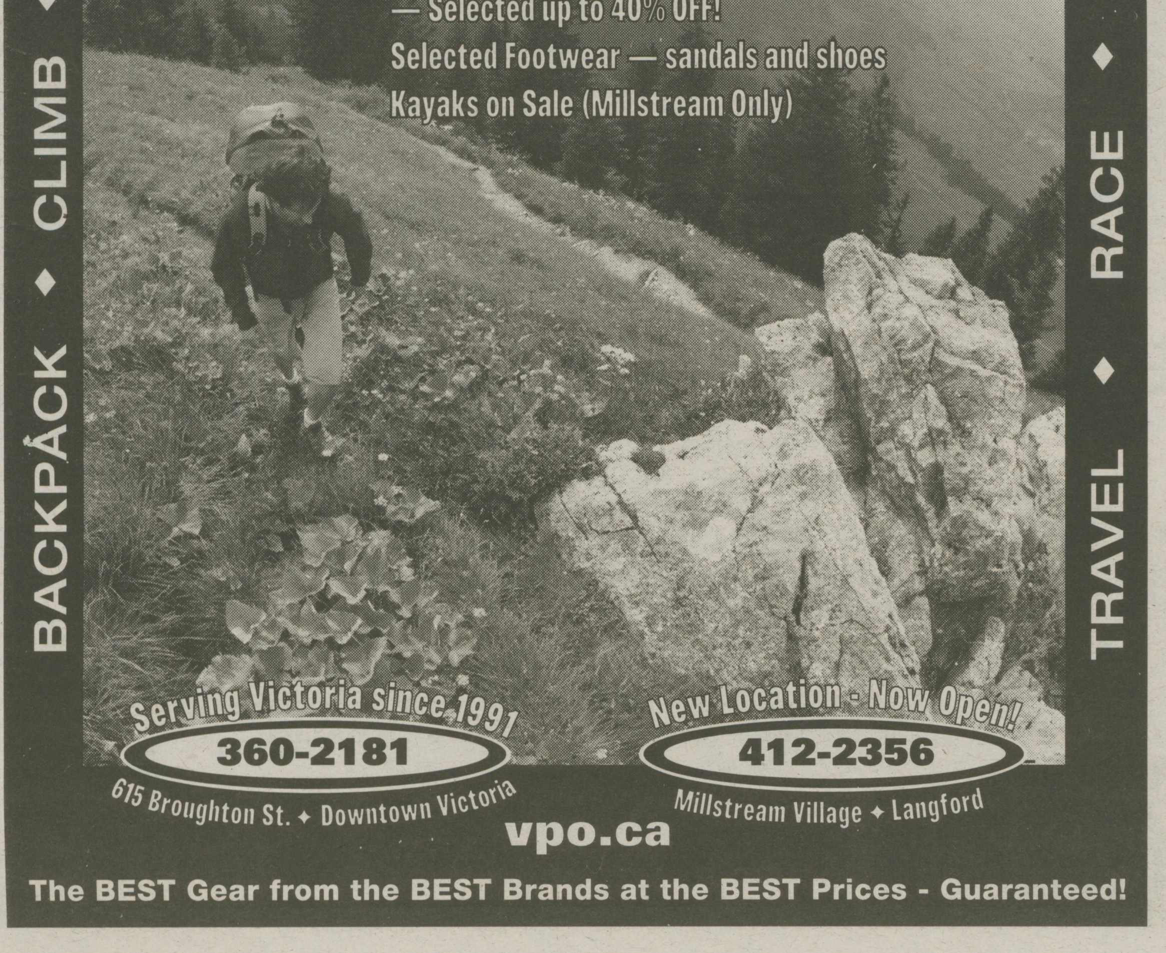
Swimming harms lumbar discs

A study by eight Japanese researchers has found that excessive swimming can mess up your back.

The University of Tsukuba researchers, who were all medical doctors, studied 58 elite swimmers and 38 recreational swimmers in their study published in August's American Journal of Sports Medicine.

The researchers found that 68 per cent of the elite swimmers had lumbar disc degeneration, while only 29 per cent of the recreational swimmers had the same back problem. It's unclear what the consequences of the degeneration are — the study found no relationship between lumbar disc degeneration and back pain.

"Between these two groups, the most significant differences were observed in variables such as training intensity and duration and distance of swimming, thus leading us to consider that a competitive load of swimming exaggerates the lumbar invertible disk degeneration," the study concluded.



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UVic finally beats Uncle Sam

Gavin Day

The Vikes concluded their series of exhibition games against NCAA opposition with an impressive 73-61 win over the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) Gauchos on Sept. 4.

UVic held a 40-24 halftime lead and, unlike their game the previous night, did not falter in the second half.

The Vikes opened the game at a fast tempo, forcing the Gauchos into a number of early fouls. For the second night in a row, the Gauchos utilized full-court pressure and the Vikes distributed the ball well to beat it. UVic took advantage of their free throws and poor Gaucho shooting to lead 20-9 by the end of the first quarter.

UVic coach Craig Beaucamp credited his team's ability to rebound from a poor second-half performance from the previous night.

"I think we learned from last night," he said. "We were more focused in the first quarter."

After a lackluster first quarter, the Gauchos increased their intensity in the second quarter. The Vikes remained focused and were able to beat the double- and triple-teams to increase their lead to 16 by half-time.

Rob Kinnear and Mitch Gudgeon contributed nine first-half points each for the Vikes while Gauchos senior guard Alex Harris also had nine first-half points.

The Vikes hit 50 per cent of their first-half shots in the first half while their defence held the Gauchos to only 30 per cent shooting from the field. UCSB coach Bob Williams saw that as the difference in the game.

"The Vikes were better — more consistent. They made 20 points on very easy baskets."

The Gauchos pressure finally got to the Vikes in the third quarter. UCSB caused 14 Vikes turnovers in the third quarter and were finally able to turn strong defence into offence. UCSB outscored the Vikes 17-8 to reduce UVic's lead to seven points.

The fourth quarter was played at a furious pace. Tyler Haas took control for the Vikes, scoring 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter. The Vikes were able to maintain their lead mainly due to poor shooting by UCSB.

Williams was blunt in his analysis of the fourth quarter and of the game overall.

"We didn't play very well, quite frankly. [The Vikes] came back like they should against a team they lost to the night before."

This was the final preseason game for the Vikes against American opposition and Beaucamp was happy to nab a win.

"I thought we played three pretty good games," he said. "I'm glad we got a win from one of them."

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SUSTAINABLE COOKING CLASS Learn to Shop, Cook and Eat Local Organic Foods on a Student Budget. Classes run every Thursday starting on Sept 20and ending on October 18. Just $20 for all 5 sessions! From canning and pasta to composting scraps, this class teaches all.

JOBS & OPPORTUNITIES

The Martlet is taking applications for the following positions: News Editor, Arts Editor, Associate Editors, Opinions Editor, Sports Editor, Environment Editor, Production Designer, Photo & Graphics Coordinator, Writer, Phtographer. Info at martlet.ca/hiring.doc. Deadline September 12th.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee is seeking environmentally aware, outgoing people to join our canvass team. Flexible hours, fresh air and fun! Call Mike, 388-9292, 2-4pm, Monday-Friday.

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EVENTS FOR SEPT. 6 THROUGH 13

Thursday, September 6

Pocket Market Kick Off, Thursday Sept. 6th (and every thursday), from 10am-2pm in the SUB. You can buy organic food while supporting local farmers, register for sustainable cooking classes and find out how to get involved with sustainability on campus.

Friday, September 7

Earth Fest Warm-up Party: The Paper Cranes, Jon & Roy, and Fury and the Mouse. It's this Friday Sept 7, at Steamers Pub (570 Yates St) , Tickets are $5 in advance, $8 at door. All Proceeds will go to UVSP initiatives and the EarthFest Event on Sept 27.

UVSS Cornival outside the Student Union Bldg (SUB) - Games, bands, refreshment and free corn! 12- 5pm.

Saturday, September 8

Vikes Men's Soccer vs Calgary, 2:15 pm at UVic Centennial Stadium.

Sunday, September 9

Vikes Men's Soccer vs Lethbridge, 2:15 pm at UVic Centennial Stadium.

Monday, September 10

UVSS Sleeping bag drive-in, 9pm in the field by Petch fountain - bring donation to food bank for free bag of popcorn.

Tuesday, September 11

Felicita's Poker night.

Wednesday, September 12

Clubs and course union days: Explore hundreds of clubs and course unions at UVic, and join them! Michelle pujol room in SUB 9am - 4pm. Also, sign up for UVic Idol.

Thursday, September 13

...Clubs days continued

Pocket market every thursday from 10am-2pm in the SUB. You can buy organic food, support local farmers, register for sustainable cooking classes and find out how to get involved with sustainability on campus.

FEATURED EVENT

Saturday, September 15th
Climate Action Day

People are aware of climate change – the big question people are asking themselves is what they can do about it, says Naomi Devine, an organizer of the Climate Action Day. "We wanted to provide a day to highlight actions people can take related to climate change, and we wanted to make it fun," said Devine.

At the Beacon Hill Park bandshell:

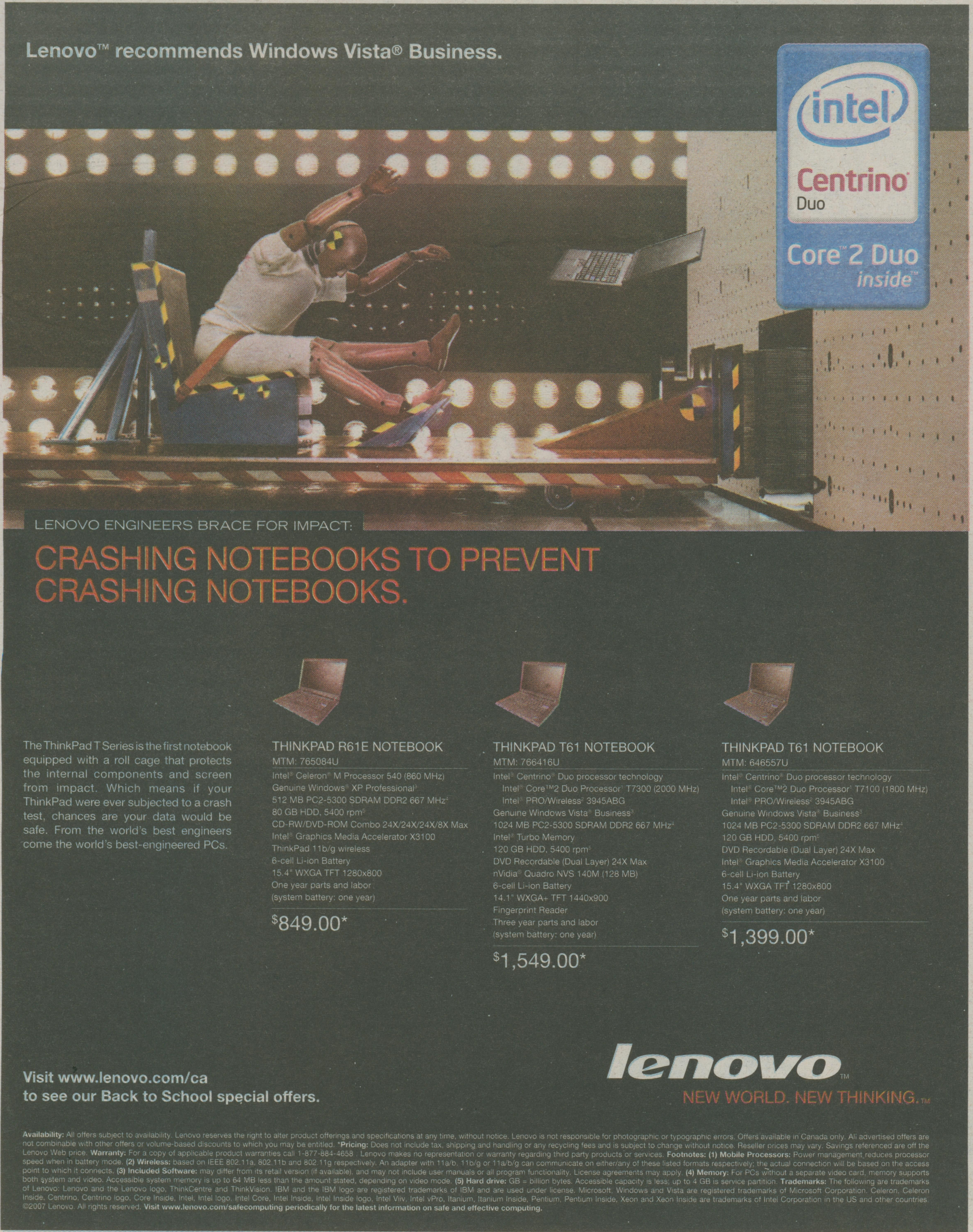
3:00 p.m.	Music by local radio
3:30 - 4:30	Walk for Kyoto (to Dallas rd and back - 5 km)
4:30 - 5:30	Speeches
5:30 - 6:00	Music - Agent-1
6:00 - 6:40	Speeches (Denise Savoie)
6:40 - 7:30	Music - Felicia Harding
7:30 - 8:30	Presentation: Climate crises - is there hope? (Brian Gordan)
8:30 - 9:30	Music

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 20 - Speaker: Jen Pukonen, Tofino. Jen will share her insights from her academic studies of Nuu-chah-nulth Root Gardens, 7pm. UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-110, Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820 or visit www.NPSG.ca.

September 23 - Celebrate the cultural diversity of our communities! An exciting event featuring Songhees Dancers, Métis singing and jigging, Taiko Drummers, Getting Higher Choir, Stages Performing Arts, Mainly Magic plus a World-Beat DJ. Free food! Sunday, 12p.m. to 4 p.m., Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone .

September 27th - Contest deadline. Name the Access UVic Bunny! Choose the winning name for our Baby Bunny. ENTER OUR DRAW. Win a $100 gift certificate to the UVic Bookstore. Send your Bunny Name to bunny@accessuvic.ca. Access UVic! Association of Disabled Students



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